

Ministry's £20m gamble

Although the Ministry of Defence was offered a fixed price contract for the Sea Eagle missile it chose a "rise or fall" target price contract, which could involve it paying £20m more than necessary, British Aerospace told a House of Commons select committee.

Thatcher to pay Sahara bills

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will personally pay all outstanding bills for last month's rescue of her son, Mark, from the Sahara Desert, she said. British taxpayers would not be liable. Algeria met most of the cost.

Peking doubts on Deng's future

Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of China's Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping, who has not been seen in public for more than five weeks. One version current in Peking is that Mr Deng has been forced to step down because of resistance to his plans for a bureaucracy purge.

By-pass aid for 220 towns

About 220 towns and villages will benefit from new by-passes in the next five years, according to a government White Paper, which adds eight by-passes to the building programme already announced.

Welsh water protest

Welsh nationalists disrupted a Commons committee meeting to protest about high water charges and the export of Welsh water to England. The protest came as CBI officials from Wales were giving evidence to the Welsh Affairs Committee. The demonstrators were removed by police.

Town mourns oil rig deaths

The town of St John's, Newfoundland, is mourning the deaths of 94 oil rig workers and has joined in mounting criticism of safety standards. Canada and Newfoundland have each set up an inquiry into the disaster.

Paris names 44 state firm heads

The French Cabinet has named 44 people to head state industries, banks and finance groups under the Socialist Government's nationalization plans. Three women are among the appointments which reflect only moderate left-wing opinion.

Loan rates up

American banks raised their prime rates as Mr William Miller, the Belgian Prime Minister, told President Reagan of fears in Europe that high US interest rates would prevent a modest economic recovery.

Schoolboy hero

Arjuna Ranatunga, an 18-year-old schoolboy, was the hero of the first day of their inaugural Test match against England. He scored 54 in a total of 183 for eight.

TROUBLED ALLIES

In the second of a series of articles on the state of the Atlantic Alliance, Maurice Courde de Murville, the former French Prime Minister, says that NATO is irreplaceable, but that Europeans must not shirk their own defence responsibilities.

World Cup form guide

A guide to the performances and records of the 24 qualifying countries in the World Cup Finals which begin in Spain on June 23 appears in *The Times* today.

Leader page 13
Letters: On El Salvador, from Mrs Katharine Thwaites; Cairo's Old City, from Sir Harold Beeley and others.
Features: page 12
Lucy Hodge: warns of the dangers lurking in secret school records; Ronald Butt on how feminism could harm the SDP.
Obituary: page 14
Lee Strasberg, Thelma Houston, Barbara Leigh

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Polish troops hold 3,500 in martial law raids

Warsaw, Feb 17.—Polish security forces arrested 3,500 people during the past 48 hours in nationwide raids to check on compliance with martial law, Polish radio said today. The radio, monitored in Vienna, said nearly 145,000 people were found to have infringed martial law regulations.

Police officials at the European security review conference in Madrid last week said that their most recent figures showed some 4,000 people were detained. The Polish government had initially indicated that up to 5,500 people were held after the December 13 imposition of martial law.

In its broadcast today, the radio said thousands of militia forces and volunteer reserves had checked some 51,000 enterprises and factories as well as 30,000 cars during the past two days. The radio said 99,000 people were asked to present their identity cards and given a warning while another 29,000 were "reminded of their duties". Some 7,000 people were given fines totalling 2.3 million zlotys (about £16,000) and 4,000 were referred to "misdemeanour courts".

Police also checked 3,500 known criminal hangers-on, the radio said, adding that the raids were also aimed against disturbers of general public security. Disturbances last weekend in the western city of Poznan brought accusations by Poland's official press that opponents of martial law were planning a campaign of conspiracy, terror and revenge.

The armed forces newspaper *Zolniers Wolnosci* said yesterday that "hostile, anti-socialist forces were trying to organize illegal actions and build up a resistance front."

In Warsaw, Mr Jan Kulaj, leader of the now suspended Rural Solidarity trade union, has had his first private meeting with a Roman Catholic church representative since being detained after the imposition of martial law more than two months ago.

A priest from a Warsaw seminary celebrated Mass last Sunday for Mr Kulaj, aged 24, in his room at a villa near the capital, church sources said today. They said Mr Kulaj was in good health and his conditions of detention were good.

Yesterday a priest visited Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader who was detained under similar conditions as Mr Kulaj. He was found in good health and spirits, the sources said. The priest, Father Henryk Jankowski, who had close associations with Solidarity, travelled from Czestochowa, Mr Walesa's home town, to discuss the baptism of the union leader's daughter. The ceremony is expected to take place next month.

Mr Stanislaw Dlugosz, deputy chairman of the State Planning Commission, said today that Western sanctions against Poland would make it more difficult for Warsaw to meet its debts to the West.—Reuters.

Washington: The State Department said today that if reports of mass arrests in Poland were true, it would find this latest example of increased repression to be deeply upsetting (Moshin AA writes). A State Department spokesman said the department was checking the Polish report.

If true, the report would remove all questions concerning the Warsaw Government's true intentions in so far as the continued violation of its populace's internationally recognized human rights is concerned.

Mr Boom: West Germany today stepped up pressure on the Soviet Union over Poland by restricting high level political contacts and suspending negotiations on scientific and shipping agreements (Patricia Clough writes). Becker, the Government's spokesman, said the measures were "political signals" which had been agreed with West Germany's NATO partners. They would remain in force until the situation in Poland improved. Last week Bonn tightened up restrictions on the movements of Soviet diplomats in West Germany. Two months of martial law, page 6

Now NUR guards threaten strike

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

The crisis on the railways showed no signs of abating last night as British Rail and the footplatemen's union remained deadlocked over acceptance of the McCarthy committee's report and militant guards threatened disruption of services tomorrow in London and the south east.

About 2,000 guards, who are members of the National Union of Railwaymen at 20 depots, could be involved in the 24-hour unofficial walkout which will affect commuter and some inter-city services.

The strike was called at a secret meeting at London Bridge, of a steering committee of militant NUR shop stewards who are unhappy at their union's acceptance of the flexible rostering, which is at the centre of the current dispute with Aslef.

Frantic attempts have been made to persuade the guards not to strike and NUR officials have been assisted by local BR managers in explaining the new rostering to workers. BR said last night that once guards had seen the rosters militancy was declining.

Stations which could be affected tomorrow include King's Cross, Paddington, St Pancras, Victoria, Charing Cross, Epsom, Ford, Stratford, Southend, Gillingford, Tilbury, Acton and Brighton. The three rail unions, British Rail officials and Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, spent most of yesterday at the offices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service as BR sought a firm commitment from the train drivers' union on flexible rostering.

Mr Raymond Buckton, general secretary of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, said as he arrived at the start of the talks that his union had accepted the McCarthy report in full and expected BR to do the same.

Mr Pat Lowry, chairman of Aslef, was attempting to find common ground between BR and Aslef on a crucial paragraph in the report on movement away from the guaranteed eight-hour day.

The British Railways Board remains solid after the McCarthy report. None of the board's arguments in favour of paying "something for nothing" as Sir Peter Parker, chairman of BR, put it last week (Michael Baily writes).

There is resentment at what is seen as a biased report, but a disinclination to throw it out in the hope that it may contain the seed of a settlement.

The crunch point will come in a month's time when the Rail Staff National Tribunal will arbitrate, under Lord McCarthy's chairmanship, on the board's argument that it may contain the seed of a settlement.

The board fears that if it pays the 3 per cent before any commitment from Aslef flexible rostering will remain totally rejected by the union.

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, last night delivered his own version of the economic success achieved by the Prime Minister since 1979.

Mr Biffen, the Cabinet's robust counter-balance to Mr Francis Pym, said the Chancellor faced a formidable task with his March 9 Budget. He would have to take account of both the unprecedented recession and the prospects for business recovery, while rejecting the siren siren of substantially increased expenditure.

In what is bound to be taken as a sideswipe against Mr Pym's February 11 analysis, he said: "This is not the time for facile optimism, but equally it is not time for introspective gloom."

Exports had risen from about a quarter of domestic product a decade ago to around 30 per cent in 1979, the volume of export deliveries had increased last year in spite of the strong pound, and exports represented a broad base of products, reflecting the country's commercial and industrial capability.

Mr Biffen commented in his speech at the Conservative London headquarters: "We do not have to see ourselves through a glass darkly; and the least we can do is to perceive that Britain can trade, fearing none in straight-forward competition."

The minister denied that of three million unemployed was the result of the Government's "dogmatic" assault on public spending. The working population had increased by 700,000 in the four years to 1980, the oil production which had

The Sioux have a point of order



Eugene Steinhauer, a Canadian Indian, lobbying Parliament to press for a better deal for his people. The Commons were debating the Canada Bill, which will end Westminster's power to legislate for Canada. Report, page 6.

Nkomo dismissed by Mugabe

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 17

Mr Joshua Nkomo, known to his supporters as "Father Zimbabwe" and partner in the country's coalition Government, was dismissed today by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, for allegedly plotting to overthrow the ruling Zanu (PF) Party.

Mr Mugabe told a stunned press conference that Mr Nkomo, two other Cabinet ministers and a Deputy minister who are members of his Patriotic Front (PF) were implicated in a plot to overthrow the Government by using large arms caches believed to be part of a planned coup.

The move left serious doubts about the principle of national unity which Mr Mugabe and other government leaders have adopted since independence. Although the Prime Minister

stopped short of excluding the Patriotic Front entirely from the Government it seems unlikely that the alliance that has held together since almost two years will survive.

Those dismissed are three of the four Patriotic Front ministers in the Cabinet, including Mr Josiah Chinamano, the party's deputy leader, and one of three Deputy ministers.

Mr Mugabe said that the remaining PF members of the Government, including Mr Daniel Nqwanja, the other minister, had asked for time to consult the party before deciding whether they would remain.

With the PF almost certain to withdraw from government the authorities face widespread disaffection in the Matabeleland region, including

Buawayo which is the focal point of Mr Nkomo's political support. One of Mr Nkomo's leading aides said that Zanu (PF) had used the events of the past two weeks to orchestrate a campaign to discredit Mr Nkomo and his party because he had not accepted the principle of merging with the ruling party as a prelude to a one-party state.

The press conference was also used to disclose a long-awaited reshuffle which brings back into the Cabinet as Minister of Home Affairs Dr Herbert Ushewokunze, the controversial former Minister of Health, who was dismissed last October.

Glee over crisis, page 6
Leading article, page 13

Biffen takes a sideswipe at Pym on 'introspective gloom'

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

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Sir Derek Rayner cuts the paper chains of command

By Pat Healy

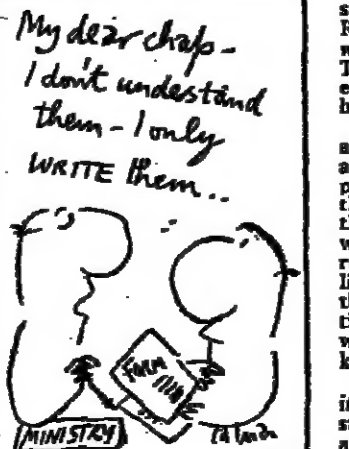
The reluctance of the Civil Service to use fewer than 25 words where one would do is at last being overcome. This, at least, was the hope of yesterday when the Government launched a White Paper indicating that at least 25,000 of the cumbersome and irritating forms that each year baffle our lives could be dispensed with.

Cynical journalists arriving at the Government Press Centre to be handed press kits weighing two pounds may have been forgiven for doubting that the day of the simple, readable and comprehensible official form had arrived.

But Baroness Young, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and now in ministerial charge of the slimmed-down Civil Service department known as the Management and Personnel Office, was convinced. Civil servants themselves,

she pointed out, had been involved in the exercise of assessing which of 93 forms were absolutely necessary, which could be torn up, and which could be improved. After months of pouring over the intricacies of the forms selected, the civil servants found that about a quarter could be abandoned.

The pioneering work of the review teams, under the direction of Sir Derek Rayner, the Prime Minister's adviser on efficiency in the Civil Service, had shown that many forms could either be improved or assigned to the waste basket. Lady Young said. As a result, forms units would be set up in every government department to review what the forms were intended to do, how they could be improved, and whether they were necessary.



White Paper and numerous other documents, is clearly in no doubt. The standard of forms is not high, he says. Departments use too much official jargon, too many legal

Union plans fight to protect university jobs

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The Association of University Teachers will strongly resist proposals by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals to weaken academic staff's tenure arrangements. Mr Lawrence Sapper, the association's general secretary said yesterday.

It was disgraceful that none of the proposals had been discussed with the association before being sent to universities, he said. The association intended to take up the matter with the vice-chancellors today.

Under the proposals, the probationary period, normally three years, on initial appointments to an academic post would be followed by a further fixed-term appointment of up to five years. Only after the end of the second year would the academic become eligible for consideration for tenure or employment until retiring age.

It is also proposed that conditions under which a university might legitimately dismiss an academic from its tenure post should be extended to include "redundancy or compelling reasons of financial exigency", provided the university made every reasonable effort to find alternative employment and provided the post in question was not refilled for a defined period.

In a letter sent to universities with details of the proposals as Tuesday, the vice-chancellors' committee says the universities' financial crisis had made particularly acute the question of whether traditional employment arrangements for academic staff were still appropriate.

"It is not easy to defend a structure which may bind a university to a legal commitment to continue an appointment to retirement no matter how circumstances change", the committee says.

It said its first aim was "to continue to provide as secure and rewarding a career for university staff as may be found in other occupations financed from public funds."

"It is recognized, nevertheless, that the universities cannot automatically be immune from cuts in public expenditure, nor can they be seen to provide greater security for their employees than is afforded in the rest of the public service except to the extent that their duties as scholars to be free to study, teach and publish so require."

The committee says each university will decide whether to change its charter and statutes in accordance with the proposals. The charges would apply only to new contracts.

Dr Edward Parkes, chairman of the University Grants Committee, told the Commons Public Accounts Committee earlier this month that the UGC was awaiting the vice-chancellors' suggestions before putting forward its own proposals.

However, he went on to say: "One must protect the individual academic of unorthodox views, which may be very valuable, while at the same time making it possible for managerial and financial reasons to close down certain areas of a university that can no longer be afforded."

"One must protect the individual who disagrees with Einstein, but not the department of science with perhaps 20 staff which the institution can no longer afford."

Mr Sapper said yesterday that his association was not so concerned about the individual who disagreed with Einstein, but was worried about the young lecturer who wanted to challenge his head of department or vice-chancellor. "He will be asked to leave like light if the vice-chancellors' proposals are accepted", he said.



Like father: Mr Hilary Benn, aged 28, the son of Mr Wedgwood Benn, was a front-runner at a meeting of Ealing, North, Constituency Labour Party last night to select a prospective candidate to fight the Conservative-held marginal seat at the next general election.

More pupils continue studies

By Our Education Correspondent

Science, but have not yet been published. The proportion of young people going into higher education is likely to fall back sharply again next autumn, however, when the cuts begin to bite for the first time in the public sector, which is increasing its intake of students and has more than made up for the reduction in university places.

London University decided yesterday to reverse a 1977 decision to phase out its external degrees, which at their peak in 1970 attracted more than 8,000 new registrations from United Kingdom students and about 3,000 from overseas students. The university's external council agreed that it should seek to increase, on a self-financing basis, its external degree provision for home-based United Kingdom students without duplicating Open University courses, and to allow overseas students to register once again for external degrees.

Professor Randolph Quirk, vice-chancellor of London, said that he had received a letter from Sir James Hamilton, permanent secretary at the Department of Education and Science, applauding "any arrangement which enhances the opportunities of adults to obtain qualifications or make up for educational chances lost earlier and which encourages self-help and initiative."

Stern adjournment

The resumed application for discharge by Mr William Stern of West Heath Avenue, Golders Green, London, who has debts of more than £100m was adjourned to a date to be fixed at London Bankruptcy Court yesterday. Mr John O'Reilly, the Official Receiver said he was awaiting a Court of Appeal decision which is expected today.

Pundits tip cool and confident Haughey

From Richard Ford, Dublin

IRISH ELECTION

The Irish Republic's 2.2 million voters go to the polls today with rival sets of economic statistics echoing in their ears. The climax to the three week general election campaign was a television debate between Dr Garret FitzGerald and his rival, Mr Charles Haughey. The pundits said Mr Haughey gave a better performance and his Fianna Fail party is now tipped to win.

For 90 minutes they discussed various issues without losing their temper, although passions were clearly raised on the matter of contraception and of constitutional initiative of Dr FitzGerald, the Prime Minister, aimed at making the republic a more pluralistic society.

Dr FitzGerald began nervously while Mr Haughey was cool and confident, apparently unshaken by the Prime Minister's tactic of attacking his record with the nation's finances. The most controversial charge raised by Dr FitzGerald was his claim that five weeks before Mr Haughey called a general election last year, the Central Bank had refused a request for £350m.

Mr Haughey showed no surprise and later criticized Dr FitzGerald for what he called a serious breach of responsibility using "what he purports to be working Cabinet documents and other communications of the highest degree of confidentiality in a last minute attempt to gain an electoral advantage."

Mr Haughey probably appealed more to the man in the street, speaking of the need for cutting inflation, providing more jobs and a stable government, while Dr FitzGerald's professional air may have cost him some votes.

He looked pale and tired after the hectic campaign and the television cameras were more flattering to Mr Haughey, who was assured, piggybacking the broad brush approach.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Parents told to control TV viewing

Parents were reminded yesterday that they must decide what their children see on television (Kenneth Gosling writes).

Mrs Gwen Dunn, a Suffolk headmistress told a London conference on television and families, organized by the Mother's Union: "The sad fact is that many parents who expect children to learn from television, show them from their own example how to look at it in this passive and ridiculous fashion."

She said the world of education seemed to have side-stepped the question of learning from television. Television was still not quite respectable, and there was still a special kind of snobbery in saying you did not possess a set.

Mr Andrew Barr, assistant head of BBC religious broadcasting, said that television could be quite different in 20 or 30 years. Without the BBC and the IBA, we could approach the American situation — "where licensing is complete mayhem".

Libelled dentist wins halfpenny

A dentist successfully sued a yachting magazine for libel yesterday but he was awarded only a halfpenny damages, and ordered to pay his own costs.

Mr Kenneth Watson, aged 57, sued *Yachting World* magazine for publishing a picture of him mending his outboard motor on a French quayside with a caption headed: "Marina Thief". The magazine said it was a joke.

Water charges rise

The South-west Water Authority is to increase its water, sewage and environmental service charges by 7.5 per cent.

Airport jobs at risk

From Jonathan Wills, Sumburgh

Talks were held in London yesterday on the future of Sumburgh airport, in the Shetland Islands, where hundreds of islanders face redundancy if the decline in oil-related helicopter traffic continues.

In 1970 the former Spitfire airfield at the southern tip of Shetland was a typical sleepy island airport, with one or two flights a day and a Nissen hut "terminal" where passengers could relax in wicker armchairs and share a pot of tea with the pilot in front of an open fire.

Twelve years and £38m later it is a fully equipped modern airport providing work for 500 people.

Yet every week it is losing more business to Aberdeen airport. Traffic has declined by a third in three years and 250 jobs have gone.

It took nearly a year for Mr A. I. Tulloch, convenor of the Shetland Islands Council, to arrange the meeting with government ministers, the oil industry, airlines and the Civil Aviation Authority, which owns and operates Sumburgh.

Mr Tulloch wants a public inquiry into the building of an £18m terminal for oil industry flights. He says that he has no evidence that the industry gave the authority any written undertakings that the terminal would be used, even though it was the oil industry that asked for the facilities at Sumburgh.

Oil companies are increasingly chartering new generation helicopters to take their workers directly from Aberdeen to the Shetland oilfields, by-passing Sumburgh. The longer range and greater capacity of the new helicopters is one reason for Sumburgh's decline, but another is the cost of landing there on average four times that at Aberdeen airport, which is run by the British Airports Authority and according to Mr Tulloch has had its capital debts paid by the Government.

No such deal has been made for Sumburgh, where debts of £11m are still outstanding for the oil-related terminal building alone. To pay that off over 20 years the CAA charges an £61N helicopter £444 every time it lands at Sumburgh with an average load of 14 passengers. A Dan-Air HS748 fixed-wing aircraft bringing 25 oil workers north from Aberdeen pays £202. The same aircraft using Aberdeen pays £123 and £189 respectively.

Mr Tulloch asked the Government yesterday to write off the £11m but even if his request is granted it will reduce airport charges by only a quarter.

Mr Tulloch says it is hard to be optimistic about jobs at Sumburgh, a view shared by Mr Jo Grimmond, MP for Orkney and Shetland, who blames the CAA for "an appalling mess of all."

An early government decision is considered unlikely, and although Scottish ministers are said to be sympathetic, that sympathy is unlikely to mean hard cash for Sumburgh.

Legacy of the cod war

Fishermen seek action on EEC agreement

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

About a hundred representatives of fishermen's organizations from all parts of Britain yesterday converged on Westminster to press for agreement on an EEC common fisheries policy.

Talks that should have taken place shortly before Christmas were postponed because Denmark was still trying to form a new government. Since then the presidency has passed from Britain to Belgium, which has shown no interest in getting matters moving again.

The fact is that Britain has a much stronger interest in reaching agreement, through because most of the Community's fish is in British waters.

Without it, it is said, the fleets of inshore boats that have been built up since the 1975, so-called cod war with Iceland deprived the distant water trawlers of their traditional fishing grounds, will continue to depend on government aid for their survival.

It was the cod war that caused everyone's attitude. Until then there had been a sort of common fisheries policy, cobbled together at the time of Britain's accession, but with each country claiming only a 12-mile limit, beyond which were the "high seas".

When Iceland insisted on a

200-mile limit, the EEC did the same, drawing a line around a vast area extending far into the Atlantic beyond Rockall.

All might have been well, but with the near collapse of distant water fishing too many boats were demanding the right to fish in EEC waters.

Britain insisted on an exclusive six-mile limit for its fishermen, although conceding what are known as historic rights in the 12-mile zone to certain countries.

The Labour government, particularly Mr John Silkin, the Minister concerned, also stood firm on what were termed "areas of dominant preference" outside the 12-mile limit.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, Minister of State for Agriculture, believes progress has been made since on conservation and pricing. But Mr Nigel Atkins, chief executive of the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations, disagrees.

In his view a potentially successful industry is being bankrupted by indecision.

Mr David Aitchison, chief executive of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation, said when he arrived in London that banks would have foreclosed on many fishermen but for the security of their boats (Jonathan Wills writes).

Complaint against 'Times' upheld by Press Council

When *The Times* published an inaccurate figure for Protestant deaths through terrorism in Northern Ireland the editor should have published a forthright correction immediately, the Press Council has ruled. He should not have waited more than six weeks to print a reader's corrective letter.

The Press Council upheld complaints by Mr Donal Kennedy of Belmont Avenue, Palmer's Green, London, and Mr F. C. McDermott, of Avenue de Suffren, Paris, that the newspaper failed to publish an adequate correction in May 1981.

In *The Times*, Christopher Thomas said that Protestants in Northern Ireland were lamenting their 2,000 dead from 12 years of terrorism by the IRA and its collaborators. The same day Mr Kennedy told the editor it was fiction that the IRA or its supporters had killed 2,000 people, let alone 2,000 Protestants, and asked for a prompt retraction. He told the Press Council that of about 2,100 people killed during 12 years of political violence a very high proportion were Catholics.

Acknowledging Mr Kennedy's letter *The Times* said that the correspondent had checked and confirmed his figure with several sources. Mr McDermott also wrote to the editor making basically the same complaint as Mr Kennedy.

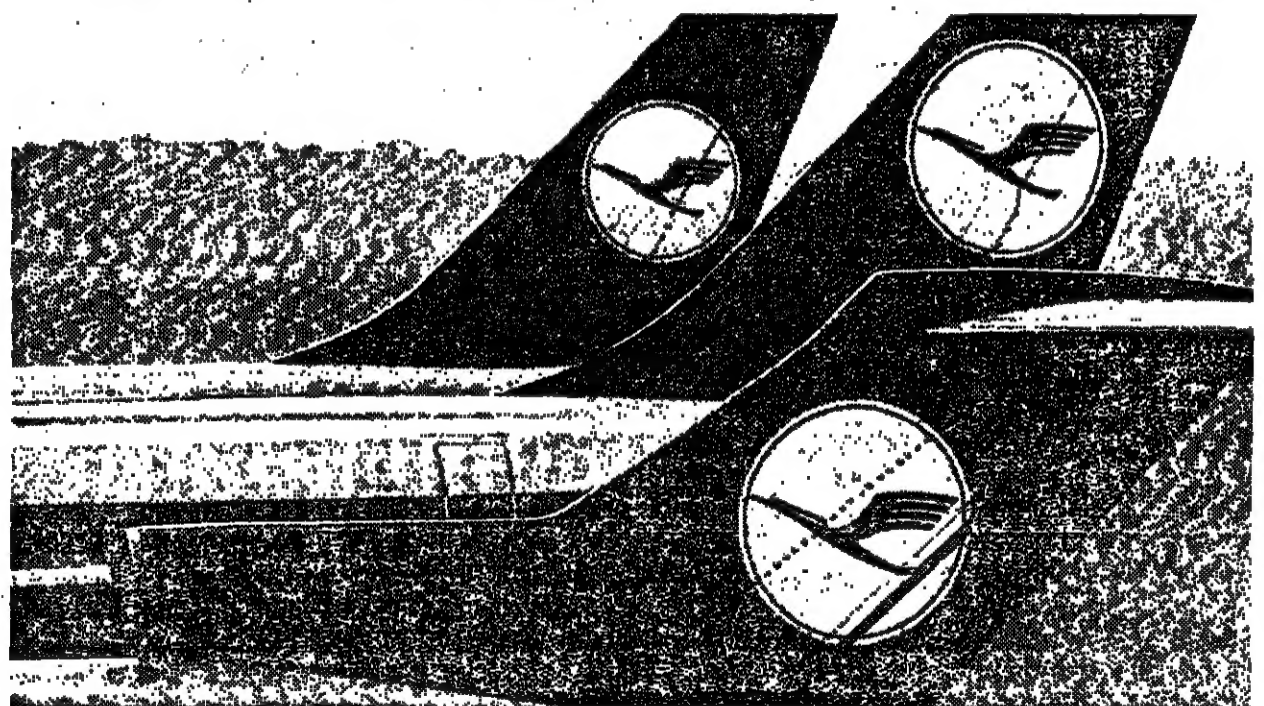
Six weeks after the report *The Times* published a letter from another reader which corrected the inaccuracy in detail.

Responding for *The Times* Mr John Grant, managing editor, said the inaccuracy was not apparent until after they had answered Mr Kennedy. When it was, they thought publishing a letter would be better than printing a correction, being given more prominence. An earlier letter had had to be discarded because it bore a false address. The newspaper felt its erroneous report had been adequately corrected, he said.

Each of the complainants commented that the newspaper had delayed both in admitting the error and in publishing the letter. Mr Kennedy provided cuttings from other newspapers and described the report as false propaganda.

The Press Council's adjudication was: "It was six weeks after publishing the inaccurate statement that 2,000 Protestants had been killed by terrorism that the newspaper printed a reader's letter correcting its error. The Press Council regards this as a most serious error of fact on a highly sensitive matter which should have been corrected by the newspaper at once and in a more forthright manner. The complaint against *The Times* is upheld."

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Britain must respond to Canada's request

CONSTITUTION BILL

The Canadians, fierce defenders of the Commonwealth ideal, had been in every real sense independent for a long time. Mr Humphrey Atkins, Lord Privy Seal and principal Government spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs in the Commons, said in moving the second reading of the Canada Bill, which seeks to patriate the constitution of that country.

He explained that the request embodied in the Bill had three elements: the amendment of the Canadian constitution by the provision of a charter of rights; the conferral of full power on the Canadian Parliament; and the amendment of the United Kingdom's power to legislate over Canada.

Mr Atkins said that this was an occasion of unique importance not just to the Canadians but to all the people of the United Kingdom and Canada.

All our lives we have admired Canada (he said) for what she is — a great, modern, independent country which has rightly taken her place among the leaders of the western world. She is a shining example of freedom and of democracy, and she has defended that freedom against every onslaught both here in the two world wars when we fought side by side and often since when she has willingly shared the burden of preserving the peace of the world.

We are (he continued) proud that we are sister members of the Commonwealth and that we are proud that the Queen of the United Kingdom is also Queen of Canada.

It was incongruous that Canada should have to make this request to the United Kingdom 115 years after the passage of the first British North America Act in 1867. Independence was formally recognised by the Statute of Westminster in 1931.

Mr Atkins said that before then proposals which had been agreed upon by the great majority of the provinces but had been approved by both houses of the Canadian Parliament. These proposals were acknowledged by the common Foreign Affairs Committee in their report published on January 17.

The Government agreed with the views expressed in that report as to the propriety of the United Kingdom Parliament enacting the proposals as requested.

The Canada Bill contained not only the two important clauses regarding patriation and future amendment, but a charter of human rights and freedoms. This Charter was a most significant addition to the existing constitutional arrangements enshrined in the British North America Act. This had been controversial in Canada and some of the indigenous peoples.

It was, of course, a matter of regret that the present proposals did not have the unanimous support by the Canadian provinces, but the Supreme Court of Canada did not consider that the consent of all the provinces was required, either by law or by constitutional convention to the making of a request to the British Parliament.

We would all wish (he said) that the outstanding difficulties should be resolved, but the Government believed that this was a matter for the people, the provinces and the Parliament of Canada to decide. We do not believe that the existence of this disagreement provides grounds for declining to act as we have always acted upon the request of

the Canadian Parliament. Some of the indigenous populations of Canada. Their existing rights were specifically recognised under the Constitution Act, and they had made it known in Canada and in this country that they were dissatisfied and opposed the passage of the amendment proposals through this Parliament without additional safeguards.

Some of the Indian groups referred to their official treaties with the Crown and maintain that there were United Kingdom obligations arising from these treaties which persisted to the present day. Three groups had instituted proceedings in the courts of this country.

These proceedings were still before the courts, but the Speaker (Mr George Thomas) had ruled that that fact was not an impediment to Parliament's proceeding with it or to discussing any current legislation despite the fact that a legislative amendment would necessarily determine the outcome or render its consideration pointless.

He knew there were MPs who wished the House to delay consideration of this Bill until the proceedings were over, but they were not dealing only with one case of proceedings by the Alberta Indians, there were two further sets of legal proceedings which had been already instituted.

There could be no certainty about when these legal proceedings would be concluded, let alone about the prospects of any further litigation was to be started, which was not at all possible.

There came a moment where one could not wait for further possible action of litigation because otherwise one could wait for a long time.

We might (he said) easily wait for a matter of years. I do not believe that the request made to us by the people of Canada should be deferred that long.

There came a moment where one could not wait for further possible action of litigation because otherwise one could wait for a long time.

Walker-Smith: Second reading premature

It was the view of the Government and of the Foreign Affairs Committee that any treaty or other obligations due to the Indian people of Canada had become the responsibility of the Canadian Parliament following independence in 1931. It was therefore to the Canadian Government that the Indian people and those who represented them should look for solutions to their problems.

The Indian rights and affairs had been the exclusive responsibility of the Canadian Government for generations and this had been the unanimous judgment of the Court of Appeal in 1931.

It is the Government's view (he said) that in the circumstances it was not right to be waiting any longer before acting on the request of the Canadian Parliament.

It was also the Government's view under the Statute of Westminster 1931 any alterations to the English version of the Bill might be necessary at a later stage for a consequential amendment to be made to the French version.

But, after consultation with the Chairman of Ways and Means (Mr Bernard Weatherill) he was satisfied that the provisions of the Bill on the subject of amendments addressed to the French version to be selected for debate.

After long deliberation, although he was satisfied that the provisions of the Bill on the subject of amendments addressed to the French version to be selected for debate.

As for the extent to which discussion of amendments to the Bill and its schedule would be in order, this was a matter for decision in the first instance by the chairman of the committee concerned. He had no reason to believe the English version of the Bill was unamendable.

MPs had invited his attention to the fact that certain legal proceedings were still pending. He would remind the House that the sub-judice rule had never been allowed to prevent the House from undertaking legislation. (Cheers.) In this context an MP had referred in particular to the possible effect on the Queen's consent, but he was satisfied, on precedents, that this was not a Bill to which the Queen's consent was required.

WE THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

WE THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP

to the Bill could only be made at the request of and with the consent of the Canadian Parliament. This was also the view of the Foreign Affairs Committee. It would therefore be the Government's advice that no amendments to the Canada Bill should be passed by the House without the current or subsequent stages of the Bill.

It was incongruous that the Canadian Parliament should have to come before the House in the matter and was an anachronism totally out of keeping with Canada's place in the world today. The present Government of Canada had sought ways of taking its own constitution into its own hands and they were to be congratulated for succeeding where their predecessors over the past 50 years had failed. It reflected great credit on the Government.

If this Bill went through it would be the last time Canada would have to ask us for legislation. Their constitution would be their own and that was exactly as it should be.

Such refusal could cause embarrassment to the Crown, for the Queen was the Queen of Canada as well as the Queen of the United Kingdom.

The federal government and the provinces had carefully and fairly negotiated a procedure for amending the constitution, and had thereby achieved a result that had eluded their predecessors for 50 years.

It was high time to end the anachronism of the Prime Minister's motion and the Government should grasp the nettle and dare to risk the arguments that would follow the decision to ask Britain to patriate the constitution.

Britain should welcome this opportunity to terminate the responsibility carried for so long, although he had some reservations about the timing.

The legal proceedings which were started by the application to the court of appeal were not yet exhausted. The Lords were now being petitioned and the second reading of this Bill until it had been heard and the whole judicial process exhausted, as it would be in a few weeks time.

I have some fear (he said) that such an attempt to rush the matter through before the Lords have given their judgment may not shorten the process. It could prolong it.

On the substance of the issue before the House of Lords, there was no doubt that the findings of the Foreign Affairs Committee and of the Court of Appeal were right. The Bill as it stood, which the Commons had no status in seeking to affect the position of the aboriginal peoples.

He would like to put forward the concerns many of them felt about the position of the aboriginals — not in order to block the Bill, but because Mr Atkins was right — it should be passed as it stood. If it were to be amended, that could open a major constitutional crisis between the British and Canadian peoples, but it was right to ventilate many of those concerns in the hope that the authorities in Canada would take some account of them.

Among the Indians themselves there was no agreement about precisely what they wanted to put forward to and what precisely should be done to put it right.

Some MPs would find it much easier to support the Bill if there could have some authoritative statement which would lay all these concerns. The expression of these concerns might be reassured by some in Canada, but concerns had also been expressed in the Labour Party's sister democratic party there.

The Commons could be immensely grateful that this was the last action it would have to take involving the Canadian constitution. The time when amendments were always exhausting and frustrating.

Sir Derek Walker-Smith (East Hertfordshire, C) said there were outstanding vital questions awaiting resolution. It was not for this Parliament to prejudge the matter. Offence might be caused to the Canadian people by acts which would be interpreted as a pre-judgment of the constitutional issue and a virtual

money but would the Government accept a change of heart and have a modest increase in spending?

Viscount Eccles (C) said he would support restructuring of the education system being immediately. It should be aimed at a better balance between full-time schooling and part-time education from 16 to 19 and between the universities and adult education.

Lord Robbins (Ind) said he found the way in which the cuts had been imposed by the DES and the universities. This had been the envy of universities in other countries, but alas no longer deserved it.

The principle that places should be found for all those young people able and willing to benefit from higher education had been thrown overboard. He did not believe that at the A level stage it was possible to gauge without a wide margin of error who would do well



Atkins: three elements



Healey: final act

unconstitutional and that we should reject the Bill. It would be perverse on our part to do so and we would have no power to enforce remedies for any grievances we might think were well-founded against the Canadian government.

The best prospect for the people was to take up wholeheartedly the opportunities in the Bill which provided for constitutional matters and the rights of the aboriginal people of Canada to be discussed at a constitutional conference within 12 months after the passing of the Act.

Quebec stood in a special position as a founder member of the modern state which brought together the aboriginal people and the representations from Quebec ignored the development of Canada since 1931.

Only the future would show whether the Bill would lead to a hardening of opinion in Quebec in favour of seeking independence from Canada. It was not possible for Britain to resolve such a long-standing debate. Only Canadians could do this.

MPs could only hope the people of Quebec used their capacity and potential to increase the prosperity of their people in conjunction with the whole of Canada. Canada needed Quebec and Quebec needed Canada.

The Bill was an historic compromise between the provinces and the federal government. By passing the Bill, the British Parliament had not opportunity to take its part in settling a problem which had irked Canada for 50 years. He supported the Bill in its entirety.

Welsh grant approved

LOCAL FINANCE

The Government could insulate local authorities from events taking place in England and the decisions of the House of Commons. Mr Nicholas Edwards (Cardiff, S) said when late last night he asked the Commons to approve the Welsh rate support grant for 1982-83. It did by 211 votes to 208.

He said it reflected his decision not to reduce the total amount available for local authorities grants in the current financial year. The position differed from that in England. Although the Government had suggested the current expenditure would exceed the overall expenditure target, he accepted the view of the Welsh rate support grant that the excess was likely to be eliminated by various means, including the normal process of local authorities cutting back.

We can rest then (he added) on the basis of their own decision to support the grant with the brush of Mr Livingstone or anyone else.

He reduced the level of domestic rate relief from its current 36p to 35p, a level as in England. This would mean that industry and commerce would pay a little less of the total rates bill in Wales and domestic consumers a little more.

I must say to local authorities (he went on) that some of the early decisions on budgets that I have heard of do cause me to fear that they are relaxing their efforts to reduce costs. If some push the total of local government expenditure over the target, then others who have made efforts may find themselves

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Fans told: Get tickets first

WORLD CUP

Football supporters going to Spain to watch the World Cup were advised to make sure they first had their tickets and hotel accommodation arranged.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, minister for sport, giving the advice during a question time, would ensure that the fans and the Spanish authorities.

Mr Dennis Canavan (West Strathclyde, Lab) said there were questionable standards of accommodation being prepared for the World Cup. A recent advertisement proposed herding fans into camps with four to a tent at a cost of £275 each. Does the minister think this kind of exploitation is conducive to good crowd control and behaviour?

Mr Macfarlane: This is such an important subject that I hope if he has any doubts, he will be received in my office because I would like to know about it. It is too early to say how these arrangements will shake out in the next few months but my officials will be watching this closely. We have a committee ensuring all aspects of the matter.

Mr Hector Morris (Dumfries, C) I am glad he was able to go to the World Cup. He said he was able to visit the grounds where the preliminary rounds will be played. He said he was able to visit the grounds where the preliminary rounds will be played. He said he was able to visit the grounds where the preliminary rounds will be played.

We discussed crowd segregation, the elimination of all other aspects. There are still many other important aspects I want to discuss with all the authorities over the next few months.

Mr Dennis Howell (Birmingham, South, Lab) said: Among the many aspects of the World Cup, I am particularly interested in the security of the travelling to the World Cup. He said he was able to visit the grounds where the preliminary rounds will be played. He said he was able to visit the grounds where the preliminary rounds will be played.

Mr Macfarlane: I welcome his comments and observations and take note of what he has said. There are many aspects yet to be discussed with all interested parties. Four million people go every year from this country to enjoy the hospitality in Spain. I hope good cooperation will be maintained over the next few months.

As for distribution, I can only argue on those who may go to Spain to watch the first phase matches to make sure they have accommodation and they have tickets at the outset before they

Mr John Carlisle (Luton, West, C) is he satisfied that in Madrid the Spanish authorities realise what a very vicious and unpleasant animal is the British

Mr Macfarlane: I take note of that.

Press Bill: print reply or pay fine

MEDIA BILL

Mr Frank Ainsworth (Salford, Lab) was given leave to bring in a Bill to amend the Media Bill which would give members of the public the right to reply to allegations made against them in the press or on radio or television with penalties ranging between £2,000 and £40,000 for failure by the media to comply.

He said that the Bill would give an organisation or an individual the right to reply within three days to any factually inaccurate or distorted statement or reply must be printed without charge and be of equal length to, and in the same position as, the original article. In the case of a weekly or monthly periodical, the reply must be printed in the next issue.

It was vital to include radio and television in the provision as well as the press. The existing law would not change in any way. Unfortunately, people could not afford to sue for libel because legal aid was not available for this purpose. Not everyone had the resources of Sir James Goldsmith.

A similar law had operated successfully in France, West Germany, Denmark, and other European countries. The inspiration for this Bill came from Mr Tom Birtwistle, former deputy editor of the New Statesman. Since the Bill was first introduced last year, it had received support from MPs on both sides of the House, members of the public, and the Campaign for Press Freedom, a trade union body.

This Bill was no panacea, but while the millionaire press would continue to mislead vast readerships, it would provide some safeguard to an individual or organisation which was not provided at present.

A distortion of the kind of distortion which the Bill would amend was a story in *The Sun* about two trainee railway drivers who were on a week's course of training. The story had been based on a report of a railway accident, although *The Sun* conveniently forgot to mention this fact.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lynton, C) said that he would not oppose the Bill, but would point out that when the Bill came up for second reading last June Mr Ainsworth did not bother to turn up, an indication of the seriousness with which he considered the subject.

Not only did he not go to the second reading, he did not even bother to get it printed. Therefore it did not seem to be a serious proposition to be taken into consideration.

five Government ran its full term, the Spanish Police are going to be able to cope with this particular type of hooligan if he offends?

Mr Macfarlane: We must maintain a sense of balance. 95.3 per cent of British supporters behave themselves when concerned about the hooligan problem and I hope the Spanish football authorities know the requirements of spectators and I am confident they will judge by the dialogue so far. Behaviour off the field is a matter for the Spanish authorities.

Weeding out powers of local councils

ENVIRONMENT

There may be a legislative opportunity in due course to deal with the powers of local authorities. Mr David Atkinson (Bournemouth, East, C) said: Among the wealth of legislation made there has been passed over the years concerning the statutory duties of local authorities, there still exists much which is out of date and no longer relevant to local needs and which if repealed would significantly reduce the cost of local government.

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Mr Taylor: Will he stop trying to put the blame on local authorities? Many local authorities want to build more council houses but this Government is preventing them from doing so.

Mr Atkinson: I hope she will now be able to do so. He said that with a significant underspend on capital account for housing to get on with spending the money they are authorised to spend.

Councils told what land to use first

The Government had given advice to local authorities on giving priority to using existing vacant land in town centres rather than developing greenfield sites.

Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Planning, said that the registers of unused and under-used public land, which were now being extended to the whole of England, should help greatly.

Mr King: It is to tackle that problem that we have introduced the registers. We have introduced them for 31 districts covering 21,000 acres of unused or under-used public land. We have said the first 500 acres and considerable more is coming forward for development.

Data protection register

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, in a written reply, said he had announced last March the Government's decision to introduce legislation on data protection and he would shortly be publishing a White Paper setting out the Government's proposals for legislation.

The basis of our proposals (he said) will be the establishment of a public register, but we do not intend to set up a data protection authority on the lines recommended by the Lindop Committee.

As one door closes...others slam in their faces

There are now more eighteen-year-olds in Britain than in any year since the war, and fewer chances for them than ever before. This week *The Times Educational Supplement* analyses the opportunities — and lack of them. Bright, dim or in-between, as a whole generation comes of age, doors slam in their faces all along the line. How do the cuts affect their chances of higher or further education? Will they miss out on the youth training scheme? Jobs? With over 3,000,000 unemployed 18 in '82... what are their chances? It's all in *The TES* this week, on sale at your newsagent, it's a vital issue for all concerned.

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More new roads to rid towns of heavy traffic

By Peter Waymark Motoring Correspondent

Eight by-passes are being added or restored to the Government's trunk road programme and about 220 towns and villages are expected to benefit from such roads over the next four to five years.

The details were released in the White Paper, *Policy for Roads*, yesterday, and bring to 15 the number of new by-passes announced in the past few months.

The latest batch includes six on which preparatory work was suspended because of public spending cuts: Stockport and Hazel Grove, Greater Manchester which will cost £27.7m at November 1979 prices; Newark, Nottinghamshire (£17m); Bathurst, Devon (£16.6m); Axminster and Rushden, Northamptonshire (£14.4m) and Burscough, Lancashire. The others at Wighton and Egremont in Cumbria, appear in the list for the first time. Estimates for Burscough, Wighton and Egremont are not yet available.

The seven by-passes recently added are Chapel-en-le-Frith and Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire; Bicester, Oxfordshire; Quorn and Mountsorrel, Leicestershire; Beckington, Somerset; Iwade, Kent; Winchelsea, East Sussex; and Blisworth, Northamptonshire.

Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Transport, said: "These schemes will make a great contribution to the quality of life in the towns concerned. They have suffered from heavy traffic for too long and I am glad to assure them that relief is on the way."

Mr Howell said new trunk roads opened in the past 18 months had taken through

De Lorean chief blames 'bad press'

By David Hewson in London and Piers Akerman in New York

The fate of the De Lorean car company is likely to be sealed today at a meeting in London between the company's board and Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who is expected to rule out further state aid.

The meeting was delayed two days to allow Mr John De Lorean, the company's American founder, to try to raise private capital to keep the receiver at bay. The company is thought to have liabilities of between £30m and £40m and has received more than £80m state aid. Without a successful restructuring immediately it is likely to go into liquidation within days.

Mr C. R. Brown, president of De Lorean Motor Company, said from California that the negative publicity which the company has received since last October has been devastating. The sports car manufacturer by the company appeared primarily to professional people, doctors and lawyers, he said. They do not want to buy the car when they read all the stuff that has been appearing, and so they ask the dealer to hold their car until they can see what is really happening.

Mr Brown said four of his area directors are convincing that sales of the car would have doubled if there had not been such bad publicity. "Through December we held our own with other cars in our range. We outsold Jaguar by almost double and kept right up there, about 5,100 had been sold to dealers in the United States. There were 435 on a ship bound for Long Beach and a further 700 awaiting shipment from Belfast."

"We have had a lot of offers of support, particularly oil money, but the time factor is against us. What we need is a restructuring."

Mr Brown said that it was a great pity that the British press had always emphasized the size of the British Government investment, but had not noted that around \$130m (£71m) had been returned to Northern Ireland in wages and plant by the company.

"The loss to the British taxpayer is really negligible, particularly if you consider what it might have cost to pay unemployment benefits to all these people if the company had not been started at all."

Mr George Clark, an official with the Northern Ireland section of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said that there was still some optimism that the company could be saved. "But we are concerned at the hard line the Cabinet appears to be taking."



Chinese bridge the gap in Liverpool

Mr Brian Tai Shen Wang, aged 32, Chinese community officer with Liverpool City Council, standing in front of Liverpool's pagoda, which will be officially opened by the Prince of Wales on April 2.

The pagoda is also equipped for sports like "chients" a game in which players use only their feet to keep a shuttlecock off the ground. A playgroup, pensioners' club, talks on Chinese history and culture, and language classes are also planned.

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Tobacco sponsorship of sport may be extended

From Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent, Southampton

A new agreement between the Government and the tobacco industry over the sponsorship of sport is about to be announced. In spite of exhortations from Britain's top medical men, it is thought that it will allow an increase in spending on sports sponsorship from £4.5m a year to £6m.

It is also going to run for four years, instead of three, which means that the tobacco industry can be sure of no interference for a long period.

The new agreement is a rebuff for Sir John Peel, medical and surgical colleges which wrote to Mr Neil Macfarlane, minister for sport, before Christmas urging the Government not to enter into new voluntary agreements.

They said that such an agreement would be ineffective and would allow the tobacco companies, hours of advertising on television through the screening of sports events when tobacco advertising on television was

normally banned. If an agreement was reached, they urged a short one.

The tobacco companies are heavily involved in sports sponsorship with Rothmans sponsoring the RAC rally, Embassy sponsoring snooker and Benson & Hedges sponsoring cricket.

One concession that may have been won by the health officials, who sit in on the negotiations between the sports minister and the tobacco industry, is a health warning on advertisements for tobacco-sponsored events.

Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, opening a conference in Southampton on preventing illness, said he was increasing the budget of Health Education Council by £2m to £8.5m.

The budget will include £2m especially for anti-smoking propaganda. The NHS £150m a year, he said.

Farmers earn more and the outlook is better

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Farm incomes went up slightly last year according to the Annual Review of Agriculture, published as a White Paper yesterday.

The review also shows that farmers borrowed 50 per cent from banks in 1979 and that new investment was down on 1980.

Incomes are estimated to have risen by an average of 14 per cent. Taking inflation into account, they were still slightly higher than in 1980, but were lower in real terms than in 1976-78.

Outstanding bank advances were about £3,400, 20 per cent more than in 1980. Although that reflects some increase in loans for land purchase, most of it was for farming purposes, the review says.

Investment in new buildings and works fell by 13 per cent to £475m, and in plant, machinery and vehicles by 16 per cent to £440m.

The income improvement was due to a continuing high level of production, high 1982. Cms. 8491 (Stationary Office, £4.65).

and the fact that the value of sales rose more than costs. Looking forward to the year ending this month without taking into account the effects of the severe weather, the review indicates further recovery.

The largest increases are expected in Northern Ireland and Scotland, where the output value of most products, particularly potatoes, sheep and cattle, is expected to increase while the rise in costs of feedstuffs and depreciation is naturally smaller than in 1980-81.

The number of farms fell by about 5 per cent between 1976 and 1981 to 242,300. The average area increased by about 6 per cent to 119 hectares.

Cereal growing increased on average from 32 to 38 hectares and sugar beet by nearly 20 per cent. There were also big rises in the average size of dairy and pig herds and of ewe flocks.

Annual Review of Agriculture 1982. Cms. 8491 (Stationary Office, £4.65).

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Gun suicide verdict is quashed

A verdict of suicide recorded by a coroner on a solicitor's son who died from a gunshot wound in the head was quashed yesterday and two judges ordered a fresh inquest before a different coroner to be held.

David Nicholas Garlick, aged 20, died when he was staying at Bothamsall Hall, Bothamsall, Redford, Nottinghamshire, as custodian of the hall while the owner was away.

Lord Justice Ackner, sitting in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, with Mr Justice Woolf, said yesterday: "Not only was there no evidence of suicidal intent, there was strong evidence to the contrary."

The suicide verdict was recorded by Lieutenant Colonel H. J. Thompson, the Redford coroner, in April last year. Lord Justice Ackner said it was only a pathologist's evidence that the circumstances of death were compatible with Mr Garlick having held the gun to his head which had raised any suggestion that death was not accidental.

Pools win for jobless man

A man who has been unemployed for three years has won £129,000 on the football pools. Mr Willie McE, aged 51, from Greenock, formerly a sugar process worker, said yesterday: "It's too soon to say what we will do with the money."

Mr Charles Hill, aged 53, a mineworker from Bilston, near Edinburg, has won £138,000. He plans to retire early.

Petrol bomb idea came from TV

Two boys aged 12 and 13, from South Shields, were fined £25 each £3 costs by a juvenile court at Hebburn, South Tyneside, yesterday for having three petrol bombs, which they made, as offensive weapons.

Mr Derek Walker, for the defence, said the boys were influenced by watching riots on television last year. They had decided to bomb railway tracks, the court was told.

Reward for Breughel

A £5,000 reward was offered by the Court of Criminal Justice yesterday for information leading to the return of a £500,000 Breughel stolen from the London Gallery earlier this month. Professor Michael Kitson, the institute's deputy director, said the thieves would have trouble selling the painting.

Hayward puts money on October 1983 election

By John Winder

The next general election would be held in October next year and the Labour Party was working hard for victory then, Mr Ronald Hayward, who is retiring general secretary of the party, said at a lunch in his honour in the Parliamentary Press Gallery yesterday.

Mr Hayward said that he had made a £10 bet that the election would be held in October 1983.

The significance of the Labour Party's meeting at Bishop's Stortford in January had been that the unions had ratified themselves to supporting the Labour Party politically and financially. Both were essential for a Labour victory, and both would be forthcoming, Mr Hayward said.

The party had as many caucuses as Heinz had soups, he joked, adding: "If all that energy and cash dissipated on them could be put into the party proper, we would be greatly strengthened."

Mr Hayward said the party would start a national campaign on March 15 to promote its socialist strategy. That would include expansion led by public spending and investment; price controls to check inflation; imports controlled for a planned growth in trade; common ownership and planning for industrial revival and special employment measures to guarantee an equal right to work.

Street crime has risen sharply in London in the past year, both in Brixton and in areas not seriously affected by last year's riots.

Robbery and other violent theft, the category that includes muggings, has risen by more than 50 per cent in some areas and the police are worried about the increased violence.

Full figures for last year are to be released early next month. But figures for the first three-quarters of last year show steep increases. In south London, which traditionally has the worst figures of the four Metropolitan police areas, the total in the third quarter of 1981 was 1,855, two-thirds up on the same period in 1980 and approaching double the figure, 952, for the same period in 1979.

The biggest percentage increase is believed to be in Lewisham, despite the determined effort in community policing that has put more policemen on the beat. Robberies and other violent thefts in that division, which includes Bromley, rose by 60 per cent in the nine months to September, up from 539 to 862, while confidential preliminary figures given by the police to Lewisham councillors are said to show a 96 per cent increase in the borough itself over the year, up from 604 to 1,189.

Some of the street crime has become increasingly brazen. In the past three

Street violence Police fear rise in robbery

By Nicholas Timmins

weeks, the police say groups of up to 50 youths have on three occasions looted shops in the area in daylight.

In Brixton, the percentage increase has been smaller, about a third in the first nine months of last year, but the number of attacks is much higher. There were 1,782 up to September, against 1,369 in the same period of 1980, with the total for the year expected to be well over 2,000 for the first time.

The increase in some other areas is as bad. Hackney had an increase of 63 per cent to 1,171 in the first nine months of 1981, Southwark a 77 per cent increase to 922. In Wandsworth the increase was 24 per cent and in Haringey, which in 1980 had the second

highest total for any police division after Lambeth, the increase in the first nine months was under 20 per cent to 896.

Both Lewisham and Brixton are sensitive multiracial areas and police have so far been treading carefully, resisting the temptation to flood the area with police, the tactic that preceded the Brixton riots.

What they need, they say, is vocal condemnation by local communities and leaders of the rise in street crime. The problem they are facing, they say, is a social one as much as one for the police. Attempts are being made in Brixton to establish a local police liaison committee. But while two meetings have been held and a third is planned for later this month, the moves are being hampered by the lack of a Home Office decision on whether to take up Lord Scarman's recommendation of statutory police liaison committees.

More evidence of a general rise in reported muggings and robberies in the last quarter of 1981 comes from Greater Manchester (Peter Evans writes). Crimes of robbery and theft from the person were together up by 7.7 per cent over a similar period in 1980, although that is a smaller rise than in the areas policed by some other forces.

M40 route threatens butterflies

From Our correspondent, Oxford

Plans to drive a motorway through one of Britain's important butterfly breeding areas have won a county council's support.

The proposed M40 extension through Bernwood Forest and across Otmoor, an area of outstanding natural beauty in Oxfordshire, has angered environmental groups.

But the route marked out by the Department of Transport as part of the £200m motorway extension from Oxford to Warwick, has been backed by Oxfordshire County Council, it decided by a majority of three to support the Otmoor route at a public inquiry last night.

The proposal has been opposed because the forest is home to some of the rarest species of butterfly, including the black hairstreak, grizzled skipper and purple emperor. Mr Charles Secret, the national wildlife spokesman for Friends of the Earth, said the route showed a callous disregard for butterflies.

Otmoor is a wild marshy area, a few miles from Oxford city centre, which inspired the chessboard in Lewis Carroll's *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.

Protesters want the proposed extension moved three miles to the east.

BLIND CHILD WINS FIGHT FOR SCHOOL

A girl born without eyes will spend her first day at a nursery run by the Royal National Institute for the Blind today after a "compromise" decision by her local council to pay the fees.

Witral Borough Council's refusal to pay the fees for Shelly Benbow, aged three, of Maxwell Close, Upton, Witral, had been criticized by Mr David Hunt, Conservative MP for Witral, and well-wishers promised several hundreds of pounds to the girl's mother.

Mr Michael Nicol, Witral's education director, said yesterday: "We have only wanted what is best for Shelly from the beginning. It has never been a question of money, rather what would be better for her."

Will employment destroy this man?

9.00 SHELLEY. A brand new series returns starring Hywel Bennett and Belinda Sinclair. Tonight, Shelley faces the threat of permanent employment and sets about enjoying his last few days of freedom.

With Thames News at 6.00 with Andrew Gardner and Rita Carter, Thames Sport at 6.30 and Does the Team Think at 7.00 you're sure to look on the bright side this evening.

Guard yourselves, Heseltine says

By Lucy Hodges

A strong plea for people to do their own policing through crime prevention was made yesterday by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, who was given the task of resuscitating the inner cities after last year's riots.

More policing was too simple an answer to the appalling crime in crime, he said. People had to be involved in improving their environment.

The minister, who was speaking at a conference in London organized by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, was in favour of schemes in which council

tenants ran their estates themselves.

Local authorities had to be sensitive to tenants' needs, he said, which meant that local management was important. That meant the police assigning officers to particular housing estates.

Lord Scarman's report had given a lead.

"The job of such officers is to act as a visible deterrent to would-be offenders and to ensure that police assistance is readily available. It is, in a sense, an effort to encapsulate the concept of the village bobby in an urban community."

More trained housing staff should be allocated to prob-



Michael Heseltine: People must help themselves

French Cabinet names 44 to head state firms

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 17

The heads of 44 nationalized industries, financial groups, and banks were appointed by the Cabinet today, in one of the biggest movements of personnel ever carried out under the Fifth Republic, and one with far-reaching consequences for the economic success of the Socialist experiment.

The appointments announced have produced no sensations. They appear to have been dictated by the desire not for revolution but for change in continuity.

From a left-wing colouring in some cases, and the appointment of three women to head nationalized banks, those chosen are drawn from that vast reservoir of graduates of the Grandes Ecoles who, since the end of the war, have worked with equal ease in the higher ranks of the Administration and in key posts in business and industry.

But there has been no massive promotion of left-wing politicians or trade unionists, or people outside that charmed circle which has governed France under two republics.

Only two of them are given industrial or semi-industrial posts. M Michel Molins, a member of the CPDT leftist trade union executive and of the Socialist Party, is made head of a new energy saving agency, and M Georges Valbon, a member of the Communist Party committee, with the reputation of a good local government administrator, becomes head of the National Coal Board.

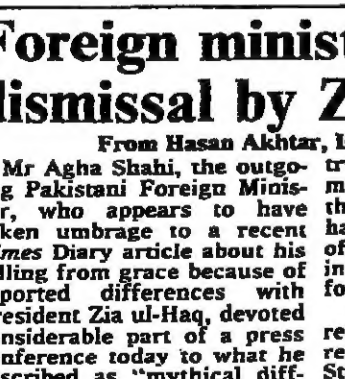
A third, M Georges Resse, is made head of the National Coal Board.



M Jean Yves Haberer: To head Paribas bank group.



M Jean Gandois: Remains at the Rhone-Poulenc helm.



M Roger Fauroux: Stays as director of Saint-Gobain.

The new head of Thomson-Brandt, M Alain Gomez was a director of Saint Gobain, but with the established reputation of a "left-wing manager", and a strong supporter of M Mitterrand.

A more unusual appointment is that of M Jean-Pierre Brunet, a professional diplomat and former Ambassador in Tokyo and born as head of the biggest industrial group, the Compagnie Generale d'Electricite. But he too had always had left-wing sympathies. Where the banks are concerned, three of the already nationalized, and 18 will be nationalized next July, among them three mutual banks to be denationalized by an elaborate process later. The appointments all involve people with senior banking or managerial experience. The appointment of M Jean-Yves Haberer, the treasury director at the finance Ministry, at the head of the Paribas financial group, was known for months.

The new head of Suez is M Georges Plescoff, who was president of the nationalized Assurances Generales de France since 1970. M Rene Thomas, the managing director of the BNP, one of the already nationalized "big three", becomes its general administrator.

who becomes head of Pechiney-Ugine-Kuhlmann, born of a working class family but a graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique, was head of the Cogema, the wholly owned industrial branch of the Atomic Energy Authority.

The new head of Thomson-Brandt, M Alain Gomez was a director of Saint Gobain, but with the established reputation of a "left-wing manager", and a strong supporter of M Mitterrand.

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M Jacques Mayoux, former president of the recently nationalized steel firm, Sacilor, and responsible for the success of the Credit Agricole, is given the Societe Generale, another of the "big three", as a handsome consolation prize.

M Michel de Boissieu, who is appointed general administrator of Rothschild bank, was managing director of the group in the 1960s, and a member of its supervisory board since 1968.

In the case of the banks, none of the former presidents have kept their jobs, although the betting was in past weeks that two of them stood a good chance. The new appointments are more "pink" than their predecessors, on the whole, and less prominent members of the administrative and business establishment.

One or two are actually members of the socialist "think tank" — M Robert Fossard, who becomes head of the Banque Paribas, M Jean Dupont, and M Jean Matouk, an economist, of the Banque Chais.

Of the three women appointed today Mme Lisette Mayret, director of the Compagnie Financiere de la Rothschild group, whose career has been in banking, becomes general administrator of the Banque Paribas, a leading Protestant bank.

The other two women, Mme Helene Ploix, are appointed Commissioners of the Government for the Banque Industrielle et Mobilier Privée, respectively.

Today's appointments are the prelude to the definition of a new industrial policy, in which the nationalized groups are expected to play the role of leaders.

They are also the start of a far-reaching reorganization. A Bill to this effect will be submitted to parliament next autumn. It amounts to nothing less than a minor revolution of French banking practices.

Mr Shahi, the outgoing Pakistani Foreign Minister, who appears to have taken umbrage to a recent Times Diary article about his falling from grace because of reported differences with President Zia ul-Haq, devoted considerable part of a press conference today to what he described as "mythical differences".

Mr Shahi, who had been replaced by Lieutenant-General Sahubzada Yakoub, said The Times article had compelled him to answer back like the general de Gaulle, who had referred to the premature reports of his death by saying: "My fall from grace is greatly exaggerated."

He said he was willing to show medical reports to prove that he had been in very poor health since October. Mr Shahi added he had asked the President to let him resign.

Mr Shahi said he hoped this would set at rest the doubts which had somehow been spread through the courtesy of an eminent newspaper as The Times and had been carried by wire news agencies and published in newspapers throughout the world.

In regard to his alleged differences with General Zia, Mr Shahi said he was baffled by the reports. He said he had carried out the foreign policy which was articulated by General Zia and had earned the President's endorsement and approval on all occasions.

"So let me say there is no truth whatsoever that I have major policy differences with the President," General Zia had been his ultimate source of authority and was the inspiration of Pakistan's foreign policy.

In this context, Mr Shahi recalled the country's new relationship with the United States. The Afghan policy, the initiative for a no-war pact with India, and the Middle East and Palestine policies, in none of these was there any major policy difference with the President.

Mr Shahi said: "Hence the mythical reports are definitely tendentious and are not well motivated. 'Finally to climax all these reports, it is stated that (I am) uncomfortable with General Zia's idea of an alliance between Catholicism and Islam against the forces of atheism and Communism.'"

He wondered how such an impression had been gained. "You will agree that this over-simplification reflects mental under-development" which he said was not confined to under-developed countries, but found expression in the columns of distinguished newspapers like The Times.

Mr Shahi, however, added that he had great admiration for The Times because he believed that it had an "educative influence".

Mr Shahi said he had not been offered any other appointment by General Zia, but added that he had offered to resign in March, 1981, when the President wanted to reshuffle his Cabinet.

Civil rites get equal status in Greece

From Mario Mediano Athens, Feb 17

The Socialist Government has tabled a draft Bill making civil marriage in Greece legal but not compulsory — thus giving in to church objections as well as to the surprisingly strong negative public reaction.

The new law will give equally validity to civil and church weddings, but most of the restrictions relating to religious marriages are to be abolished for the civil procedure.

These include the lifting of the ban on the fourth marriage, mixed marriages, the disqualification of people convicted for adultery and the ban on marriages between blood relations. Greek clergymen and monks who have taken a vow of celibacy, would be able to marry under the civil procedure.

However, the general synod of the orthodox Church of Greece said recently that it would tolerate the civil marriage only in the case of Greeks of other religions, or atheists.

Mr Stathis Alexandris, Minister of Justice, in tabling the draft Bill last night, explained why the Government had not heeded the demands of Greek women's organisations, the Athens law faculty and the Bar Association in favour of the compulsory civil marriage, leaving the church ceremony optional.



Royal progress: The Governor-General of the Bahamas, Sir Gerald Cash, greeting the Prince and Princess of Wales at a brief stopover at Nassau airport on their way to a ten-day holiday on Windermere Island, Eleuthera, in the Bahamas. They also made a one-hour stop at Hamilton, Bermuda, and went on a brief "walkabout".

Madrid worried by wave of killings

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, Feb 17

Senior Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Prime Minister, today attended the funeral of two of the latest Civil Guard victims of a fresh wave of killings, possibly by ETA, the Basque separatist organization.

He thereby demonstrated the Spanish Government's extreme concern, just before the court martial of those involved in last year's attempted military coup was about to begin.

The Government is worried about the impact that further killings, or the possible kidnapping of an Army general, might have on the trial, which starts here on Friday. Any general might be at risk, but there are 13 Army and Air Force generals and three Vice-Admirals in the court-martial.

No claim for responsibility for yesterday's killing has yet been made by either wing of the Basque separatist organisation. But the Government's special police anti-terrorist squad said last night that the two Civil Guards, one on active service and the other retired, were "evident" victims of ETA's more violent military wing.

The two men were killed within hours of each other in two different places in the Basque region. Accompanied by Juan Roson, the interior Minister, the Prime Minister flew from Madrid to San Sebastian this morning. This is the first time that he has made this gesture after the murder of Civil Guardsmen, though he did so shortly after taking office, when senior army

officers were killed in the Basque region. The Diario Vasco, a usually well-informed Basque daily, reported today that a decision to resume a campaign of killings and violence was also taken by ETA's hitherto more moderate politico-military wing, at a secret meeting last weekend.

Since the beginning of this month, when a special Cabinet committee set up to superintend the security arrangements for the February 23 coup trial first studied the issue, the Government had been worried about reports that the more moderate wing would break the truce that it had declared immediately after last year's coup attempt.

The Basque autonomous regional Government has condemned yesterday's killing, saying that they were "clearly a bid to destroy democracy at an extremely delicate moment" as the court martial begins. The ruling Basque Nationalist Party today urged everyone throughout the Basque country to repudiate this fresh outburst of violence, if they wished to preserve the region's autonomous status.

The police anti-terrorist squad today announced the arrest of a five-man group belonging to ETA's military wing near Bilbao, together with their arms and explosives.

A police statement accused the five of responsibility for the killing of a Civil Guard last October in the Basque region.

Peace ship may set sail for Ulster

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem, Feb 17

Mr Abie Nathan, the eccentric but determined owner of the Voice of Peace radio ship, announced today that after 16 years of attempting to reconcile Jews and Arabs, he will leave for Northern Ireland at the weekend in an effort to promote peace between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

Mr Nathan first came to world attention when he flew his private aircraft, Shalom 1, into Egypt in 1966, at a time when it was still in a state of war with Israel. He was imprisoned by the Israelis after returning from a similar solo peace mission a year later.

His further activities have ranged from a 45-day hunger strike aimed at halting Jewish settlement in the occupied territories to an unsuccessful attempt to take his radio ship into Beirut harbour in 1978 to deliver a cargo of medicines and children's clothing.

The station, which broadcast a mix of music, advertisements and peace jingles, closed down at midnight on December 31 with a record by the late John Lennon. Mr Nathan has failed to secure an Israeli licence for his ship to broadcast from the shore in winter.

He told reporters that he would fly to Belfast on Sunday "to see whether they want us to sail the ship there, whatever the risks."

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Peking fails to dispel doubts on Deng future

From David Bonavia, Peking, Feb 17

Mystery is increasing here about the whereabouts and activities of Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping, hitherto considered the effective leader of the Chinese Communist Party and Government, who has not been seen in public for more than five weeks.

Ambiguous statements by other leaders have only served to deepen the sense of puzzle. The Foreign Ministry has said that Mr Deng retains his previous high posts in the party and the armed forces. Yesterday, Chairman Hu Yaobang widely considered to be Mr Deng's protégé — told a visiting Chinese-American scientist that the party leadership was strong and united, but did not refer to Mr Deng.

Earlier, Mr Bo Yibo, a deputy Prime Minister denied there would be a purge of the bureaucracy this year, whereas Mr Deng is thought to be committed to exactly such a move.

The party's theoretical journal has reiterated the need for a purge of corrupt, inefficient or over-age officials. The jobs of leftists who came up during the Cultural Revolution may also be in jeopardy.

Mr Deng, who is thought to have gone to southern China over the Chinese New Year last month, was originally rumoured to be on an inspection tour. He has since sent a wreath for the funeral of a relatively little known party official and a message of encouragement to an army conference on forestry. But he remains out of sight.

Two interpretations are being put on this state of affairs, apart from the view of some observers that it is of no significance. One version is that Mr Deng has been forced to step down because of the strong resistance to his purge plans.

Another is that he has voluntarily withdrawn to the "second rank" as Mr Wan Li, another Deputy Prime Minister, put it last week, because he is feeling his age or is disheartened by the resistance to his modernizing, relatively liberal policies.

Although Chairman Hu laid emphasis on collective leadership, this has rarely been an accomplished fact during the past three decades of communist rule.

On the contrary, the leadership's course has been strewn with plots and conspiracies, treachery, calumny, civil unrest, economic crisis and violent death. Guiding policies have been turned upside down at irregular intervals, but with awesome frequency.

The reason for concern at Mr Deng's prolonged absence from public view is that many of his crucial policies are still in their formative or intermediate stage. They are controversial enough to be difficult or impossible to implement without his strong personality and great experience.

The economy, for instance, is going through a transitional phase in the conversion from heavy to light industry, and the liberalization of agriculture, giving the peasants much more freedom to plant what crops they like and market them as profitably as they can after providing a fixed quota for the state.

Some highly placed people — especially in the armed forces — fear that this is a reversion to "feudalism" which will undermine Mao Tse-tung's system of people's communes.

Similarly, in industry, an influential group of top-level economic planners and administrators is believed to feel that the steel and oil industries have been cut back enough if not too much.

Nor is there likely to be unity over foreign and strategic affairs. Mr Deng's strong commitment to friendship with the United States has led him into a quagmire because of President Reagan's insistence on selling arms to Taiwan.

China remains powerless to influence the situation in Indo-China, where Vietnam has established almost total domination and alignment with the Soviet Union.

Another invasion of Vietnam by China would arouse disputes here about timing and tactics.

There is also disagreement about the desirability of the introduction of aspects of Western culture and traditional Chinese culture, previously called decadent, and the continued attack on the policies of Mao.

Unemployment is particularly serious among former servicemen who were demobilized because of defence cuts.

There are, in short, many aspects of Mr Deng's policies which are open to severe criticism by other revolutionary veterans and members of the public.

Most of them have been muted so far by the sense of political direction which he has imparted. But it is possible that the threat of a mass purge of party and government officials may have come up against opposition too resolute for even him to cope with.

Sex poser for lady Captain of the Castle

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 17

San Marino, Europe's oldest and smallest republic, perched on Mount Titano where St Marinus was supposed to have founded his tranquil as well as tiny state — is split on the feminist issue.

Reports have come down the mountain that a court decision favouring women's rights is to be challenged. Last week the judiciary reversed an existing law and gave women born in San Marino the right to keep their nationality if they married outside the republic.

Until that decision, which many women proclaimed historic, a man born in San Marino retained his citizenship, but women lost their rights to citizenship if they looked for a husband outside the 36 square miles of sovereign territory.

A demonstration organized by the Women's Union of San Marino expressed immense joy at the court verdict. A law which they regarded as unfair and which had been in effect for 53 years had been overturned.

The judge, however, ruled only that a woman maintained her rights of citizenship: there was no question of giving women the right enjoyed by men of making their children citizens.

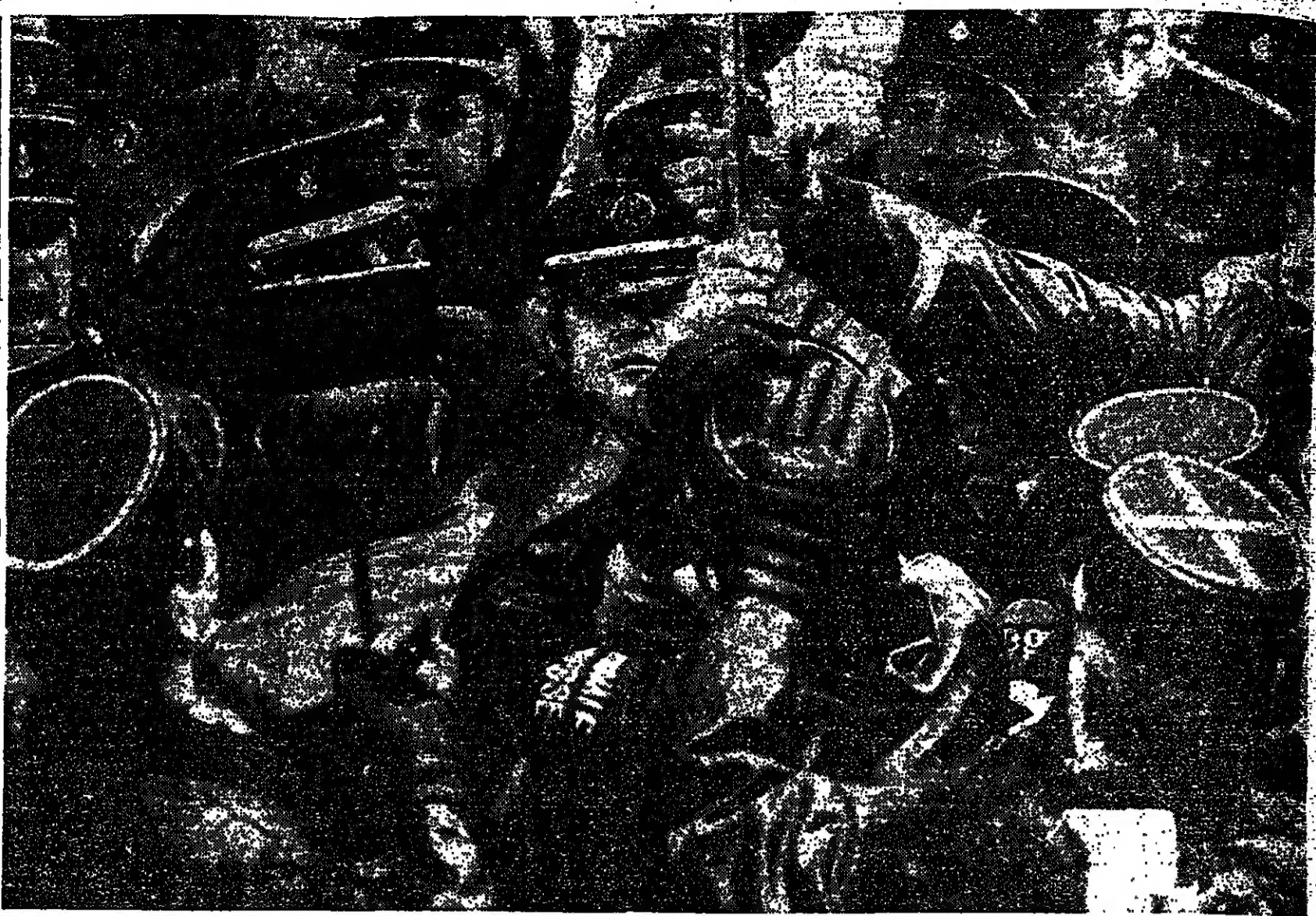
The verdict was the result of a legal action brought by a San Marino woman who had married an Italian and so under the old law had forfeited her citizenship.

There are also said to be a disturbing number of women who do not marry their foreign lovers, even if they have children by them, for fear of losing their citizenship and their rights to an unusually generous social security system.

An appeal against the verdict has been made on the grounds that the court did not have the power to reverse legislation. The appeal was regarded as sufficiently important and dangerous for the rights of women for the female Captain of the Castle of San Marino to explain.

The captain, who is effectively the mayor, said that the appeal had to be considered by the two heads of state. San Marino has two Captains Regent, who are elected every six months.

The coalition Government is in no position to advise the Captains Regent. Although it has 31 seats in Parliament, it cannot count on the vote of the single Social Democrat on this issue, so that the parliamentary line-up would be 30-30.



Unusual behaviour: Scores of angry striking French customs officers, outnumbered by police, were kept away from the Elysee Palace where a Cabinet meeting was in progress yesterday.

France takes brunt of MEP criticism

From George Clark, Strasbourg, Feb 17

Prophesies of gloom and doom dominated speeches from all parties in the European Parliament today when MEPs debated the pessimistic report on the state of the EEC given yesterday by Mr Gaston Thorn, President of the Commission.

Most of them endorsed his assertion that the community is in serious danger of deserting its free trade principles and retreating behind national trade barriers.

Mr Basil de Ferranti, Conservative MEP for Hampshire, West, pinpointed the latest manifestations of protectionism under the socialist regime in France. He referred to the walling off of the French market from other EEC countries, and condemned particularly the plans to protect the French machine tools, textiles, leather goods, toys and furniture industries.

Herr Karl-Heinz Narjes, the Commissioner for the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, said that fuller details had been requested from the French government, but it appeared that the measures were in complete violation of the principles of free trade. Complaints had come from other countries that measures already introduced by France had paralyzed or destroyed some trade within the Community.

A French minister had been invited to Brussels to explain the motivation and extent of the measures and the Commission would then give an official ruling whether they were incompatible with Community rules.

Mr De Ferranti recalled that Mr Thörn had said that the single market was the Community's priceless asset.



Mr de Ferranti: "Britain a sorry example"

but he thought, judging by recent events, that most people would like to have the old tariff system back again instead of the present dangerous and hidden non-tariff barriers.

National authorities asserted their right to test products for compliance with certain specifications and these procedures were easily used to slow down the flow of imports.

"In Britain we have an all too sorry example of what this can lead to," said Mr De Ferranti. "The British car industry has for years been protected by the national system of granting type approval certificates."

This has allowed British motor manufacturers to maintain prices that are 30 to 40 per cent higher than prices in other member states. While they may vainly hope that this helps them to hang on to their share of the domestic market, it has progressively meant that they have priced themselves out of community and world markets.

It would be tragic if France were now to go along the same road, taking action which they short-sightedly think will protect their industries.

Lack of progress in devising any European strategy for industrial developments that could provide more jobs was a constant theme, and the Conservative group, under Sir Henry Plumb, its new leader, has decided to set up a special subcommittee, which will have advice from British, American and continental businessmen. To see what new initiatives can be proposed.

Strong backing is being given to the Channel tunnel scheme as a joint European enterprise.

The chronic inability of the Council of Ministers to reach decisions, especially on the restructuring of the Community's finances was condemned, but the Commission itself did not come out unscathed.

Sir Henry Plumb, for the Conservatives, said that it had been largely incapable of getting the decisions that the Community so desperately needed. He gave notice that the Commission's performance would be closely monitored in the next 12 months, and there was a hint that there could be opposition to a renewal of Mr Thörn's appointment.

St Lucia seeks end to turmoil

From Jeremy Taylor, Port of Spain, Feb 17

After nearly three years of political turmoil, the Caribbean island of St Lucia is preparing for a general election, which must be held by May 7.

It may return to power Mr John Compton, the pro-Western leader who headed the Government for 15 years until he was defeated in 1979 soon after independence from Britain.

Until the election, St Lucia, a ruggedly beautiful volcanic island with 115,000 people is being run by an interim government, the fourth since independence. It came to power in mid-January after public protest toppled the Labour Party government of Mr Winston Compton.

The Prime Minister is Mr Michael Pilgrim, a 35-year-old accountant and graduate of the North-East London Polytechnic, who entered politics only three years ago. Mr Pilgrim, a popular figure of the moderate left with thick, shoulder-length hair, was sworn in on January 17 under an agreement between all political parties.

He appointed to his cabinet one representative from each of the two main parties, filling the rest of the posts with representatives from the private sector, the trades unions and other organizations — "what we need in this country is unity," he said.

St Lucia is still heavily reliant on agricultural exports (including bananas for Christmas) and tourism. Under Mr Compton, had come to terms with the reality of outside economic pressure and had become something of a shopkeeper of quiet pro-western stability.

Mr Compton's United Workers' Party (UWP) was defeated in 1979 by the Labour Party (SLP) which was led by Mr Allan Louisy, made an incautious deal with Mr George Odlum, his ambitious left-wing deputy to hand over power after six months, which he failed to do, plunging the SLP into a bitter leadership feud which crippled its work as a government.

St Lucia slipped into economic decline which eroded confidence at home and abroad. Mr Louisy's government fell last year but the SLP struggled for eight months under Mr Winston Compton, his Attorney General, while Mr Odlum left to form his own progressive Labour Party (PLP).

The Compton Government fell last month after trying to introduce legislation to allow MPs to accept government contracts and more time to account for official funds spent abroad.

It was the last straw. There were protests from the unions, the business sector and the entire political opposition which almost shut down the island for a week.

Letter from Grenada Airport threatens exotic lifestyle

When Gil Sevil, an American born in Cuba, flew into the former British colony of Grenada (pronounced Gren-ay-da) the other day, he found a lot of his former fellow-countrymen briskly building an airport large enough to handle the most modern aircraft.

"There were quite a few Cubans with machine guns," said Mr Sevil, cruise director of the Costa Lines cruise ship The Daphne. "But they were quite friendly."

"When you inquire why the tiny, 21-mile long island needs a huge airport, they say 'to bring in more tourists,'" he added. "But one 747-load of passengers would fill every single room in town for a week."

There is plenty of activity at the new airport at Salines Point as the Cubans, using Russian equipment, rush to finish the job.

In many parts of the Caribbean and Central America these days, Cubans can be seen at work on aid projects. In Grenada so far, the aid appears to be benevolent.

Mr Maurice Bishop, the London-educated lawyer who became Prime Minister in a bloodless revolution in 1979 while his predecessor, Sir Eric Gairy was visiting New York, has already survived one assassination attempt.

"We pump over \$5m a year into the local economy," he says. "That's one-fifth of the country's entire operation budget." He says Grenada gets \$10m from banana and cocoa exports, \$5m from spices, and another \$5m from tourism.

Ever since Dr Bourne says that he is on very friendly terms with the Prime Minister.

"When the revolution took place, I called the Prime Minister and told him that, although Grenada was cut off from the outside world, our school at the school was still operating. So we were able to tell worried American parents, the State Department and the world that all was well in Grenada."

There have been suggestions lately that there may be a CIA agent operating among the students. Dr Bourne commented: "I have told the Prime Minister that we have nothing to do with the CIA. Of course, I can't avoid the possibility that the CIA might be infiltrating here. But I'm not suspicious of any student. In any event, we tell our students to stay out of politics and keep their mouths shut."

Ivor Davis

Stepping off the cruise ship Daphne, I found Grenada quaint but poverty-stricken. Shops are forlorn with peeling paint, supermarket shelves are half-empty and yet there is a bustle in town as scores of schoolchildren, in their English-style uniforms, wait for buses to take them home. Tourists, Americans in particular, are somewhat apprehensive about the Cuban-Russian connections with the lush, green island and their anxieties are not diminished by tales about a top-secret enclave, heavily guarded and closed to the public.

At the port of St George's, once you have fought off the guides, taxi-drivers and native ladies offering a variety of spices, the locals are extremely courteous. Joann Koch, director of the film society at the Lincoln Centre in New York, told me: "We've been coming here for seven years

since the military seized power on July 17, 1980. General Celsio Torrealba's five month reign which now runs the country has promised to 'democratize' the country and return to democratic rule over a period of three years."

The government of General Torrealba, a 48-year-old former army commander, and Interior Minister under General Garcia Maza, has just signed a accord with the miners' Comites de Base representatives to recognize those broadcast centres soon after a commission has reported how it should be done.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Flag of convenience for Nato

Brussels — Luxembourg, the smallest Nato state whose armed forces consist of 700 soldiers, is to acquire a £1,000m paper air force stationed in West Germany with forward bases in Italy, Norway, Italy and Britain (Reuters reports, quoting Nato sources).

Formalities were almost complete to register in the grand Duchy the 18 airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft converted Boeing 707s — which will give the alliance an extra 15 minutes warning of any attack. Luxembourg was chosen as the state of registration because its law does not require the few of aircraft registered there to be Luxembourg nationals.

The Nato Council yesterday approved a letter to the Luxembourg Government requesting it of responsibility for any damage caused by the aircraft which will carry the Luxembourg lion on the tail and "Nato" on the fuselage.

Corsicans bomb 17 targets

Paris — Seventeen bomb explosions damaged banks and other commercial premises in Paris but caused no casualties. A telephone caller to a news agency claimed responsibility on behalf of the Corsican National Liberation Front.

The group, which has waged a violent campaign aimed at winning Corsica's independence, said last week it was ending an eight-month truce.

Refugees end hunger strike

About 80 Vietnamese refugees have ended a hunger strike at a Hong Kong camp which they began last Wednesday in protest over their uncertain future and the length of time they have been detained.

Some have been awaiting resettlement for two years. Hong Kong's "correctional officers" moved the strike leaders to other camps and the situation was said to have returned to normal.

Nixon's name crops up again in bribery trial

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, Feb 17

Japan's Lockheed bribery trials took a new turn today when prosecutors in the Tokyo district court produced affidavits which allege that Mr Kakuei Tanaka, a former Prime Minister, attempted to persuade the directors of All Nippon Airways to fly L-1011 Tristars from the American Manufacturers.

Mr Tanaka, who resigned in disgrace in 1974 and was subsequently brought to trial on charges of bribery, allegedly attempted to persuade the airline to purchase the aircraft at the request of Mr Richard Nixon, the former American President.

The affidavits of leading businessmen who are implicated in the scandal, suggest that Mr Nixon asked Mr Tanaka to persuade All Nippon Airways to take the Lockheed Tristar when the two leaders met in Hawaii in 1972.

The prosecutors allege that Mr Tanaka had abused his influence in exerting undue influence on All Nippon Airways (ANA) in the interests of the Lockheed Corporation. In one affidavit produced today, Mr Naoki Watanabe, the former vice-president of the airline, alleged that he had discussed the issue with Mr Tokujir Wakasa, the airline's former president, shortly after Mr Tanaka returned to Tokyo from the Hawaiian summit meeting.

Mr Tanaka's trial has dragged on for five years. The verdict is expected to be handed down next year.

In a parallel trial, Mr Wakasa, now chairman of ANA, was convicted on charges of bribery and perjury last month and given a three-year suspended sentence. Court also handed down prison sentences ranging from six to 14 months to four executives of ANA. All the sentences were suspended.

Mr Wakasa and Mr Watanabe were also accused of perjury themselves before a hearing of a parliamentary committee in the late 1970s when they denied suggestions that ANA officials had taken an option to buy DC10 aircraft from Lockheed's rival, the McDonnell Douglas Corporation, before the bribes were disbursed to politicians and senior officials.

GENOCIDE CLAIM BY LAWYERS

From Our Correspondent, Delhi, Feb 17

A group of Asian lawyers have accused the Soviet forces of committing genocide in Afghanistan, in a report published today.

The legal inquiry committee, into the happenings in Afghanistan headed by Mr P. N. Lekhi, the Indian Supreme Court advocate, said that the Soviet intervention had violated the United Nations Charter.

Mr Lekhi told reporters that the committee had approached the Bar Association of Pakistan and other Asian countries, but they did not respond. Lawyers from Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bangladesh, besides India, took part in the inquiry which was sitting in Delhi.

AUSTRALIA FACES ELECTIONS

From Our Correspondent, Melbourne, Feb 17

The Australian Democrats, the party which holds the balance of power in the Senate, could be pushing closer to a double dissolution — resulting in elections for both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

They have announced that they would veto the Government's planned sales tax on basic essentials, claiming that they can save the average family \$A1.30 (about 88p) a week.

This plan had been denounced by Government leaders as interference with budget strategy and a threat to the Government's ability to cut taxes. Rejection of the tax-raising proposal will cost the Government \$A53m this financial year.

51 Guatemalan Indians hacked to death

Guatemala City, Feb 17 — Fifty-one Indian farmers, including some women and children, were decapitated yesterday morning at their homes in the Uspantán region of Quiché department, western Guatemala, by unidentified men wielding machetes.

The massacre was revealed by a group of reporters who visited western Guatemala, where a big military and guerrilla operation is in progress. The reporters described emotional scenes in various towns of the Uspantán region, with relatives crying over the dismembered bodies of the victims. Guatemalan television showed some such scenes tonight.

Senior military officers of the forces operating in western Guatemala blamed guerrilla groups for the massacre.

Managua: Two leading rebels have been killed in clashes with Government troops in the mountainous north of Nicaragua in the last few days, according to the Interior Ministry.

A communiqué, which described the rebels as belonging to "counter-revol-

utionary bands", said that a total of three were killed in the clashes near Ayapal, 120 miles north of Managua.

The senior rebels who died were Wilfredo Páez, who was accused of killing 11 people in earlier incidents, and Guadalupe González, who was known as Ramón.

Stockholm: Mr Ola Ullsten, the Swedish Foreign Minister, criticized the United States today for supporting the Government of El Salvador.

Mr Ullsten said that America should use its influence to persuade the Salvadoran Government to respond to a United Nations General Assembly resolution, which called on the parties in the El Salvador conflict to negotiate.

San Salvador: Two United States Congressmen have arrived in El Salvador on a mission aimed at preventing Washington's involvement in what one of them called "a Vietnam situation".

Mr Tom Harkin and Mr James Oberstar, both Democrats, said they would be joined by Mr James Coyne, a Republican, today.

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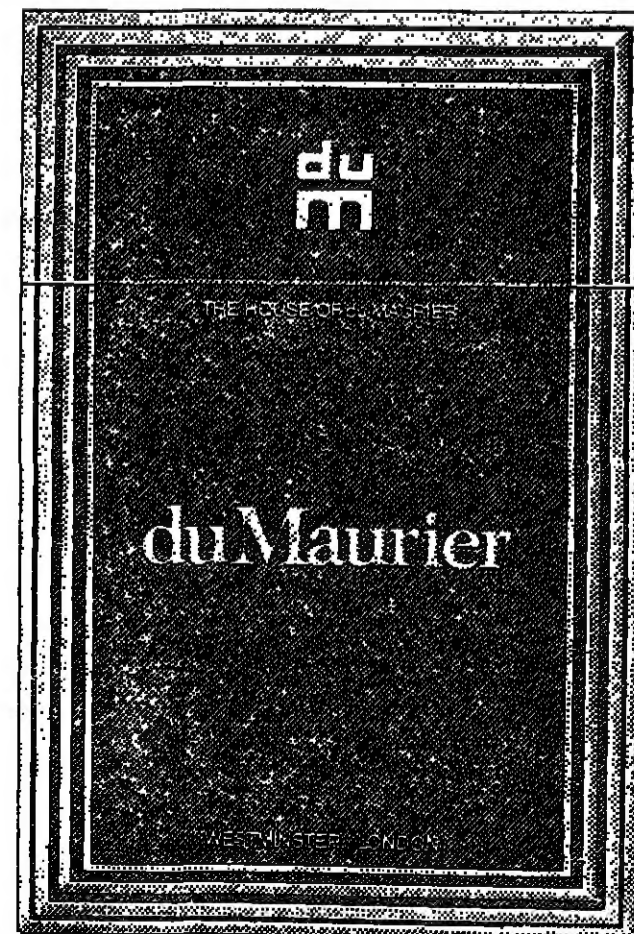
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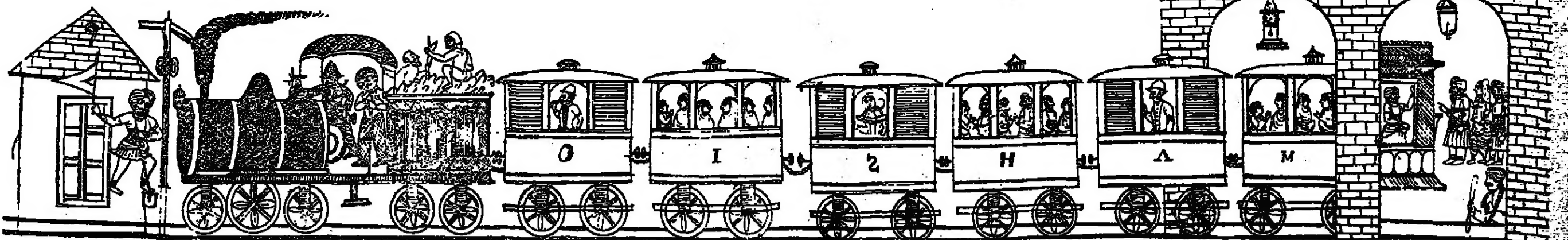
Discover du Maurier.



Discover Low Tar.

LOW TAR Manufacturer's estimate

DANGER: H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:
THINK ABOUT THE HEALTH RISKS BEFORE SMOKING.



Sikh woodcut of a railway train c. 1870. The engine is evidently a wood-burner. From *Railways of the Raj* by Michael Satow & Ray Desmond (foreword by Paul Theroux) (Scolar, £7.50)

A goodly prince

Francis I
By R. J. Knecht
(Cambridge, £25)

Travellers to the Loire valley are beguiled at every château and Syndicat d'Initiative by a formidable iconography of French history's women: Joan of Arc, of whose appearance no certain record survives; demure Agnes Sorel, left breast plopping free; Anne of Brittany, stolid queen to successive brother-kings; Reine Claude, dead at 24 but immortalized in a beautiful green-gage-plum with a blue-white bloom; and, most seductive and treacherous of all, power-hungress beneath the sickle moon and twice her royal lover's age, Diane de Poitiers. A cool team.

Only one man comes near to matching *les dames de Touraine*, and his image of the crowned salamander in flames is unforgotably stamped in relief all over the oak doors, beamed ceilings, vast chimneys and barrel-vaulted guardrooms of the region: one or two even curl out of the stone itself to peer at the weathered cherub of some forgotten entertainment or wild boar petrified in the chase. Lest the visitor of that time or this should ever miss the point, the supposedly indestructible salamander frequently alternates with a firmly incised and elaborate capital letter F. It is the mark of King Francis I (1494-1547), *Francis premier*, the French Henry VIII, centuries later the promiscuous villain of Hugo's *Le roi s'amuse* and the model, therefore, for the Duke in Verdi's *Rigoletto*.

We have a very good idea what Francis looked like, too, because he was painted by Jean Clouet, the Holbein of the Valois Court, and described by many, including Edward Hall:

a goodly prince, stately of countenance, merry of cheer, brown coloured, eyes high, nose big, lips full, fair breasted and shoulders, small legs and long feet.

Impeccable reporting from 1542. Yet, perhaps the French King best known outside France between Saint Louis and Louis XIV, Francis I has become both simplified and dimmed in modern times. Until Desmond Seward's illustrated *Rainbow of a Prince of the Renaissance* (1973) there was no modern life in English, and until now no full-scale scholarly biography at all. This gap is superbly filled by R. J. Knecht's new book. Francis is vigorous, exhaustive, much rarer in a work of this range and scale — particularly well measured and shaped. Commanding a huge personal, social, political, cultural, fiscal and economic territory not to mention endless alliances, progresses, feints and bewilderingly fast reversals of fortune, it is a

model of what a dense historical biography should be.

Francis emerges as King of France at a time when the men who lived there were uncertain where France ended or began, and as Protector of the Faith when subjects and rulers alike took time to decide what was heresy and what was faith reborn. Supremely secular in most respects, he brought in the Muslim Ottoman Turks to check Imperial and Papal power, but he too was burning Calvin's *Institutes* before he died. Wildly extravagant in pursuit of war, he was obsessed by the threat of encirclement and with his dynastic right to the Duchy of Milan, the window on the whole of Italy and points East, it very nearly ruined him. The flames through which the salamander held firm were those of rebellion, military catastrophe and humiliation at the hands of the Emperor Charles V.

He patronized the new printing and collected paintings, manuscripts and books. He courted Erasmus, Leonardo and Cellini. Fontainebleau, said Vasari, was "a new kind of Rome" — perhaps a rather Italian sort of complacency, that. But his reign, so the great staircase and the loggias of Blois, and vast incomparable,



haunted Chambord, that simple forest hunting lodge for a few friends and their ladies, with a miniature city bristling along the sky. Under Francis, too, Cartier went to Canada and Verrazano discovered New York. "The people," he wrote back to his patron, "were dressed in birds' feathers of various colours, and they came towards us joyfully uttering loud cries of wonderment." Still, he is still so.

Francis was charming, ruthless, insolent and shy; accessible to all except in time of plague and heartily thorough, not to say rough, in everything he undertook. Not so smart as Henry VIII and lacking the statesmanship of Charles, he surprised us by emerging from this splendid book as a nicer man than either.

Michael Ratcliffe

Nobel pilgrimage through the moral desert

Auto-da-Fé
By Elias Canetti
(Cape, £7.95)

Auto-da-Fé first came out in Germany in 1935 as *Die Blendung* (i.e. *blinding or bedazzlement*). This translation by C. V. Wedgwood ("under the personal supervision of the author") was published in 1946 and has been reissued several times; on this occasion to celebrate Canetti's Nobel prize. The author was born in Bulgaria in a community of Ladino-speaking Jews (Ladino, I gather, standing to Spanish much as Yiddish does to German). He grew up and studied in Vienna for the most part but settled in this country for good in 1938.

Despite these vicissitudes of language, nationality, and passing time this is an entirely distinct coherent book. The translation conveys a remarkable forcefulness of utterance. Although not unrecognizable in type, *Auto-da-Fé* is not exactly like anything else.

It recounts the last painful months in the life of Peter Kien (not "Klein" as the more than usually incompetent blurb-writer informs us), the world's greatest sinologue, an inhumanly hermetic scholar, who lives in and for his library of twenty-five thousand books, whose purchase has just about used up his inherited fortune. A momentary display of pretended reverence for books by his humiliated housekeeper leads him to marry her. She soon has him dominated: confined to a bit of one room, unfed, in the end beaten and thrown out into the street. There he falls in with a dwarf, Fischerle, who sets up an elaborate scheme to rob him of what is left of his money. The even more repellent caretaker of his apartment building comes in a way to his aid as does Kien's brother. All in all, he goes up in smoke with his library.

The book has been compared to Joyce's *Ulysses* and the novels of Kafka. It has something in common with

them: a large, phantasmagoric Nighttown section in the middle like *Ulysses*, an absurd world presented in plain language as in Kafka. But the differences are great. Bloom and Dedalus are acceptably real human beings; Canetti's monsters are grotesque, nihilistic humours. Kafka's tone is anxious, apprehensive, bemused; Canetti's is exasperated, angry, impatient. It accords well with his somewhat congested appearance on the back of the jacket, where the aggressive slope of his moustache seems to reflect the accumulated diet of wurst within, unrelieved by going out of doors.

A better comparison would be with such a more or less post-expressionist work as Brecht's and Weill's *City of Mahagonny*. In both human beings are represented as grotesque and vile. But Dr Kien is not the crushed soul of expressionist proper, nor is there any discernible political aspect to *Auto-da-Fé* as there is to the work of

writers like Brecht and Toller. One paragraph, near the end, might suggest otherwise. It begins "we wage the so-called war of existence for the destruction of the mass-soul in ourselves, no less than for hunger and love". This is more like Heideggerian metaphysics than anything political.

It has been said that *Auto-da-Fé* alludes somehow to the rise of fascism. If it does then so does any other novel about Europe between the wars with some very nasty people in it. In fact it is more like Swift, rearranged for the culture that gave us the Thirty Years' War, a defiance of the human experiment delivered in the peremptory tones of a *Geliebter*: "Zis, Heri Gott." It is completely unacceptable. It is an arduous book to read, for all the exact staidness of its prose and the small oases of grim humour with which, one's pilgrimage through the moral desert is relieved.

Anthony Quinton

Bring back philosophy, king of sciences

Thoughts and Thinkers
By Anthony Quinton
(Duckworth, £28)

Anthony Quinton takes a grim view of his fellow professionals. The theme of this combative collection of articles is that too many modern philosophers have chosen to be large fish in small ponds, complacent about the range of their studies, contemptuous of their intellectual predecessors and proud of their practical irrelevance. Once upon a time philosophers happily combined the scientific investigation of abstract categories with the near-religious concern for the nature of the universe and the destiny of mankind. Philosophy did not have to be a full-time job. Newman and John Stuart Mill played

national politics; Anselm worked out his "ontological proof" between sermons as Archbishop of Canterbury. "Nowadays," Mr. Quinton mourns, "there are no serious philosophers who are not looking forward to the pension to which their involvement with the subject entitles them. They write almost exclusively for one another. Even when a politician or imaginative writer does show a concern for broadly philosophical issues their work will reveal no sign of exposure to any current professional debate."

The blame for this deadening state of affairs is put at the door of that ruling troika of twentieth-century philosophy in Britain, the Stalin-like figure of Wittgenstein, his Lenin, G. E. Moore, and his Trotsky, Bertrand Russell. Quinton argues that Moore "through sheer lack

of intellectual vitality" did not even see the dangers of restricting ethics to the trivial rules of inter-personal obligations. Wittgenstein was a man of almost Tolstoyan moral sensibility who nonetheless cut off philosophy from life "by a self-mutilating effort of will". Russell the politician blustered about the need for new moral values while denying in his philosophical writings that any moral value could be known.

Where the leaders led, disciples followed — and all the more fervently. The first few were able to cut broad swathes through long-tangled logical confusions. The many that came later cut increasingly narrow paths to increasingly dead ends.

Modern philosophy, the extraordinary tenacious influence of Moore — suffered more dangerous dam-

age than did other disciplines.

Quinton's remedy is a rehabilitation of the "evolutionary philosophers" W. K. Clifford and T. H. Huxley, in fact of Victorian philosophy generally. He sees the fashionable dismissal of most of our philosophical history (following Wittgenstein's remark that he couldn't read Hume because there were simply too many mistakes) as dangerous, and indeed linked to the perils of overspecialization. Backing up this twin call for change, Quinton has selected articles for this collection that range from a cool expose of the phoney originality of Marshall McLuhan to high praise for the classification system of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

Peter Stothard

Insight into the crime of Glencoe

Massacre
The Story of Glencoe
By Magnus Linklater
(Collins, £7.95)

The Massacre of Glencoe was no more a blood feud between neighbouring and rival tribes than was Bloody Sunday in Derry a clash of opposing religious sects. Higher powers were at work; the Campbells who slaughtered 38 MacDonalds that bitter February morning in 1692 wore the uniform of King Billy's redcoats.

Like Derry, another of William of Orange's legacies,

Glencoe had its Wiggery-style inquiry, which failed to lay blame at any particular door. Magnus Linklater, son of Eric, is a *Sunday Times* journalist, and he employs that paper's nose-to-the-ground style of investigation to follow the trail of responsibility all the way up to the king.

The party is typically indistinct, as it will be when the recent history of Ulster comes to be written from the viewpoint of decent distance. William signed an order saying that if "that tribe (MacDonalds) can be well separated from the rest, it

will be a proper vindication of the public justice to exterminate that set of thieves." If he read it, he may not have understood its implications, and he may have forgotten that the once-Jacobite MacDonalds had recently signed an oath of loyalty to him.

Sir John Hill, governor of Inverlochy, who signed the immediate order, claimed his officers had exceeded their authority, and that he had merely obeyed the ultimate authority of the throne. It was a defence more readily accepted then than at Nuremberg 250 years later.

What a stir Linklater would have caused had he published in 1692, when it was only by another piece of contemporary journalistic ferreting that the crime was unmasked at all. Who was to blame hardly seems to matter now; Glencoe's import is that it was the starting pistol for two centuries of systematic destruction of the Highlands and the old feudal clan system, a process that is not yet ended. For the historical perspective there is still no better account than John Prebble's trilogy *Fire and Sword*.

Alan Hamilton

Dame's delight in literature

In Defence of the Imagination
By Helen Gardner
(Oxford, £12.50)

We are agreed, we are not, that what matters are the text and the reader, not the author. The only point of producing a play by Shakespeare is to enable a director to impose his new overall conception on the archaic text and the mechanical art of the actors. It is bourgeois sentimentality to read the literature of the past unless we can discover modern relevance in it. That is why on the whole contemporary literature is better than old books, because it is more relevant.

Since you ask, no; we are jolly well not all agreed to those propositions. But they have a strong grip on the English trade, many of whose professionals have gone whoring after Structuralist gods in clatria — (Oops, apostrophe) — in liturgies that are impenetrable by profane outsiders. Professional historians, archaeologists, musicologists, and art-historians produce work that can be read with pleasure by amateurs. But the two disciplines that are of central concern to all educated men and women, philosophy and literature, seem to have retreated into private concrete bunkers where outsiders are not welcome. And now at last, thank Chaucer and Shakespeare, thank Aristotle and Hobbes, thank them all, here comes our most distinguished literary academic to perform the voodoo but therapeutic function of pointing out that the Emperor's new suit looks a bit drafty.

Most of Dame Helen's book is devoted to the distasteful but necessary task of killing contemporary sacred cows. What matters about books are their texts and their authors. It is crass and philistine to pretend to find the "real man" or the "inner life" of somebody by deliberately ignoring what he wrote. Extravagant notions by trendy directors may produce sensational happenings on the

stage for the press and other theatrical groupies; but they smother the real drama. An extreme and peculiarly daft form of "reader-orientated criticism" reduces Donne's last sermon to "a self-consuming artifact". If so, the Bible is the most self-consuming artifact of all. Dame Helen deals with them all with style and relish, for instance reducing Frank Kermode's dotty obsession with narrative to a heap of cardboard ruins.

Her last chapter, *Apologia Pro Vita Mea*, is unnecessary, but fun. Few of our contemporaries need an *Apologia* for their lives less than she does. It has been a triumphal celebration of the central moral importance of literature from Donne to Eliot. We are all lucky to be able to spend our lives in the company of our betters: the poets, dramatists, novelists, and other makers who are the enrichers of this ugly world. And Helen Gardner is of their company.

Philip Howard

Fiction

An Unsuitable Attachment
By Barbara Pym
(Macmillan, £6.95)

Somewhere between Trollope and E. F. Benson's maliciously spinsterised Rye lies the domain of Barbara Pym. Dowagers descend on fêtes in a fine flush of patronage unbearably all but themselves; matrons gently agonise over cats and unmarried sisters; not-so-young bachelors court women of propriety and property. The slight, elegantly constructed plots are vanished with a wave of the hand, always acute, never vulgar. Miss Pym's world is small, but it is all her own and perfectly comprehended.

As one of her most ardent supporters, Philip Larkin deserves praise for a foreword which points as clearly to the flaws as the virtues of her seventh novel. Rejected in 1963, it marked the beginning of 14 years of wounding obscurity before Miss Pym was rediscovered and awarded the final accolade of an appearance on *Desert Island Discs*. Set in a London parish, this is the most church-oriented of her novels, and by no means the best. The attachment is between Ianthe, a shy spinster of more good-will than sense, and her handsome but impetuous assistant at the local library. Their curious romance is so delicately described as to become insubstantial, but Miss Pym's splendidly acute observation of the ridiculous being reserved for her minor characters. "I feel somehow that I can't reach Faustina as I've reached other cats," frets the vicar's wife, while her hus-

band contemplates a heroically named rock salmon in the fish-and-chip shop. Less happy are the frequent authorial interjections of a mildly homiletic nature. We are told that the caring visitor matters more to the sick than the bringing of gifts and heaven help us, that "the right old-fashioned ideas about men and their work". If a comparatively slight addition to the Pym diara, the novel is studded with sufficient wit to delight the faithful, who will particularly relish a deliciously funny account of the parochial expedition to Rome.

A Pale View of Hills by Kazuo Ishiguro (Faber, £6.25) is a first novel of grace, subtlety and accomplishment. The story, which is set in England, is haunted by the recent suicide of her daughter, Keiko. Evading the present, she looks back to the year of Keiko's birth in a wasteland east of bombed Nagasaki. To the wasteland come Mariko and her mother Sachiko, who is prepared to sacrifice her daughter's happiness in order to start a new life in America with the lover Mariko hates. Sachiko readily admits to her egocentricity and speaks against the folly of sentimental attachments as she fastidiously drowns Mariko's pet kittens before they leave. In retrospect, Esu's unwillingly perceived analogy to her treatment of Keiko. The rigid distinctions between the wicked and the virtuous become blur and sharpen to her new understanding of Sachiko as the mirror-image she chose not to recognize.

A Mother and Two Daughters by Gill Godwin (Heinemann, £7.95) starts well with a elegantly barbed description of aging American partygoers staving off time with paint and prattle. Noll Strickland, the observer, is forced

out of her comfortable detachment when her husband dies of a heart-attack on the day she is leaving. Neil to cope with the emotional demands of his two daughters. Had Miss Godwin stayed with Neil, the strongest and most interesting of her characters, she could have written a fine novel. In pursuing the sexual and intellectual evolution of Neil's tresomely narcissistic daughters, she sinks to the level of a soap-opera, and has as much style as a wash-rag. With guilty smiles fitting about like bats, chins tilting defiantly and a new lover coming on as "an extremely warm and vital man", Miss Godwin would do well to swallow her pride and buy a Thesaurus.

Less pretentious and a lot more fun is James Lipton's *Mirrors* (New English Library, £6.95), a fast-paced and highly professional show-business novel which chronicles the struggle of a young diabetic dancer to become a Broadway dancer. The subject may be a little hackneyed, but Lipton's approach is bouncy and realistic enough to make your muscles ache in sympathy with the gypsies of Broadway.

Miranda Seymour

Crime

Murder Unprompted
By Simon Brett
(Gollancz, £5.95)

Hail (moderately) the unmurder story. Here is a further instalment in the life of Charles Paris, perpetually

struggling actor and occasional happenstance sleuth, and it is only on Page 109 out of 160 in this cheerful and informative account of what happens when a new, teetering play gets a West end transfer that we read "this dormant detective instinct was stirring", and only on Page 94 was the fatal shot fired. Yet the book would have been the lesser had it been just the story of how, for once, Charles Paris gets to play the lead and has a short-lived, dying-fall triumph.

Why do we need murder in a book like this? Margery Allingham said once that "the essential killing is, at worst, a status sign, an indication that the theme in hand is of importance" and, to a slight extent, the presence of even so perfunctory a death in Simon Brett's story does enhance his portrait of a man just surviving, a sketch that gives the book an underlying, something extra to make it more satisfying than it might have been.

Were the book only the story of Charles Paris's near success it would, I suspect, fail particularly to involve its readers. The hunt for the murderer in the final pages adds to the emotional involvement we have yielded to an intellectual involvement, a challenge at least to hit on the killer before all is revealed, even if we no longer get the battle of wits of the old-style mystery novel in which it would have been grossly cheating not to have devoted every page to the murder in hand. So let us hope the engaging Paris keeps his detective instinct always at least dormant while he reveals to us yet other aspects of the actor's world.

An Uprush of Mayhem, by Jack Scott (Collins, £6.50). Keep obbo on Inspector

its own importing: there was no British Council. Not surprisingly there was confusion. Euphoric translation meant that the second of Spence's trio, Lu Xun (0.1881) read Huxley's *Evolution and Ethics* as schoolboy and then galloped through Rider Haggard, Dumas, and the Sherlock Holmes stories. Others mixed Tolstoy and Jules Verne. When Ibsen's *A Doll's House* came out progressive Chinese women rushed to call their daughters Nora.

Of all these writers, "sardonic, uncompromising and perceptive" Lu Xun was probably the best; certainly the most clear-sighted and unfailingly acute in his view of the Chinese. He died in 1936 and has since been cherished as a national hero in the new China, though one can hardly imagine a man who would have been more



Listening, drawing by Feng Zikai

lacerating in his comments on Maoist China.

Ding Ling (b.1905) makes the third of Spence's trio: not at all simply as a representative woman. Her life, with its hopes, its disappointments, its courage and suffering, its hesitation and evasions, is a representative mirror for the whole period. She was sucked in by the leftist tide, ran into trouble with Mao in Yanan and only enjoyed a brief respite in the early 1950s before being cast out as a "rightist" in 1958. At 77, she is now happily holed up in the calmer waters of Deng Xiaoping's China. But what must she be thinking of the new young writers, once again suffering from the old and traditionally Chinese—prescriptions?

Aside from the three main figures, many others come fully alive, thanks to Spence's keen understanding. Xu Zhimo, the romantic poet, was lucky in basking in the warm curiosity of Bloomsbury. Cambridge Apostles. He was a rare anti-communist. Wen Yiduo, a non-political academic, did not escape murder at the hands of Chiang's secret police in wartime west China. Lao She, who perished in the cultural revolution, gets a deservingly appreciative and splendid appraisal. Not many splendours among all these miseries, but much courage and sacrifice, no less deservedly recorded.

Richard Harris

Rosher. He has moved from caricature to character. This affair, a sex-murder plus country-house robbery, gives him fine scope.

Blayde, R.I.P., by John Wainwright (Macmillan, £5.95). The life of a policeman, no less, from recruit to Chief Super, and brought to life, too, from Page 1 to close-packed Page 251.

Here Lies Gloria Mundy, by Gladys Mitchell (Macmillan, £6.95). Enter unique Gladys Mitchell. Land where past meets present and there is always murder and Dame Beatrice Bradley to unravel all.

The Mischief Makers, by William Haggard (Hodder & Stoughton, £6.50). What was behind Brixton? Becoming idiosyncratic by the book, Haggard has an answer, on the way bleeding-heart are blasted, pinkos pulverised.

Enter A Gentlewoman, by Sara Woods (Macmillan, £5.95). Infinitely reliable Woods with another lead. "Exceptional depravity" in the bedroom of who's lying? And, worry not, permissiveness is kept in place.

Masterstroke, by Tim Heald (Hutchinson, £6.95). The Umpteenth Man at Oxford? Heald whisks us through a pretty imbroglio with every collegiate expectation lightly laid on.

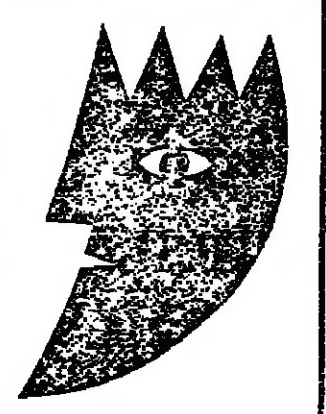
Corridors of Death, by Ruth Dudley Edwards (Quarant Crime, £6.50). A fine peer into the 'Yes, Minister' world, interesting and thoughtful. The murder story less successful, alas, recounted rather than told.

H. R. F. Keating

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rites of passage
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faber and faber



THE ARTS

Paperbacks
Widening windows

The Linewood Sculptors of Renaissance Germany, by Michael Baxandall (Yale, £8.95)

The title of this paperback may sound esoteric; not to say hermetic; not to say elitist. It has been on my conscience since it came out in hardback a couple of years ago, and I dismissed it on the Books Page with a picture of a little person sheltering under her gown. I have never been sensitive to carved Virgins or Crucifixions, or paintings by Titian of Saint Sebastian struck by arrows. But smiling a sickly grin, when one gets past the block of the title, it is a rich book that opens windows on to far wider views than its narrow theme. It takes two generations of wood-sculptors, and through their mystery examines the bustling life and times of the arrival of the Reformation in Germany.

Formally it is an account of a school of wood-carvers that blossomed in southern Germany in the 50 years between 1475 and 1525—the period leading up to the Reformation, and more or less co-extensive with the life of Albrecht Dürer of Nuremberg. It offers an introduction to the sculpture itself. But it also looks through the sculpture into early Renaissance Germany, the carvings being used as lenses and kaleidoscopes to their circumstances. So we are plunged into such big matters as the commercial character of Europe at this period, and the tension between the sense of group and the sense of individual prowess that arose at the Reformation; and such fascinating little matters as fraudulent tears made with drops of varnish on the Virgin, and Paracelsus's concept of chryomancy. The book won the Mitchell Prize for the history of art, the judges of a literary prize for once getting it right. When you have read the complex story behind them, the carvings look less sentimental and quite charming.

Philip Howard

The Meaning of Treason, by Rebecca West (Virago, £4.50)

The year of the Somme marked Dame Rebecca's first book, and now nearly 60 years later she adds a new preface to her revised authoritative account of betrayal since 1939. She is as alert as the historian as the journalist. Her narration of Lord Haw-Haw in particular goes beyond a clear elucidation of the events and reaches into the reasons and reckonings behind the deeds. Her density of thought and expression demands rapt attention. There is a fullness and often complexity in her syntax, yet it remains clear and sharp. The new preface re-emphasises her desire for a complete explanation of the facts to warn the public of the dire consequences that traitors can produce. Her exploring and questioning mind, at 90, is still alert to the many important but withheld factors. "Our defeat, his triumph, is on the enemy's files; so why not publish and be damned?", she says about

Blunt. Her stannich and reproving account from Joyce to the Profumo Affair (through the ideologue to the scientists to the bent diplomats) concludes: "It's a lout's game." But unlike Macbeth we cannot hope yet that "treason has done his worst" for the game goes on.

Geordie Greig

The Shooting Party, by Isabel Colegate (Penguin, £1.25)

The shooting party of the title takes place in 1913, that period before the First World War that later generations see as the halcyon days of this century. Whether life was really so ordered and tranquil, one may doubt, but certainly the pace was different, and it is that lost sense of space and time that distinguishes this excellent novel. The action takes up relatively little of the book, and so there is time to explore a wide range of characters, rich and poor, old and young, on the brink of a new world no one dreams of. There is time to absorb the long-established relationships of this society together, and time to observe the development of new ones overshadowed for us by August 1914. This time never drags, because Isabel Colegate has so sharp an eye for the telling detail that every description and conversation adds to the feeling of leisurely intimacy. Only with the socialist disciple of "the simple life" does she come perilously close to parody. There is also suspense and romance, for this is not a melancholy book, but its theme is the end of an era, and the glow that warms it is from a setting sun.

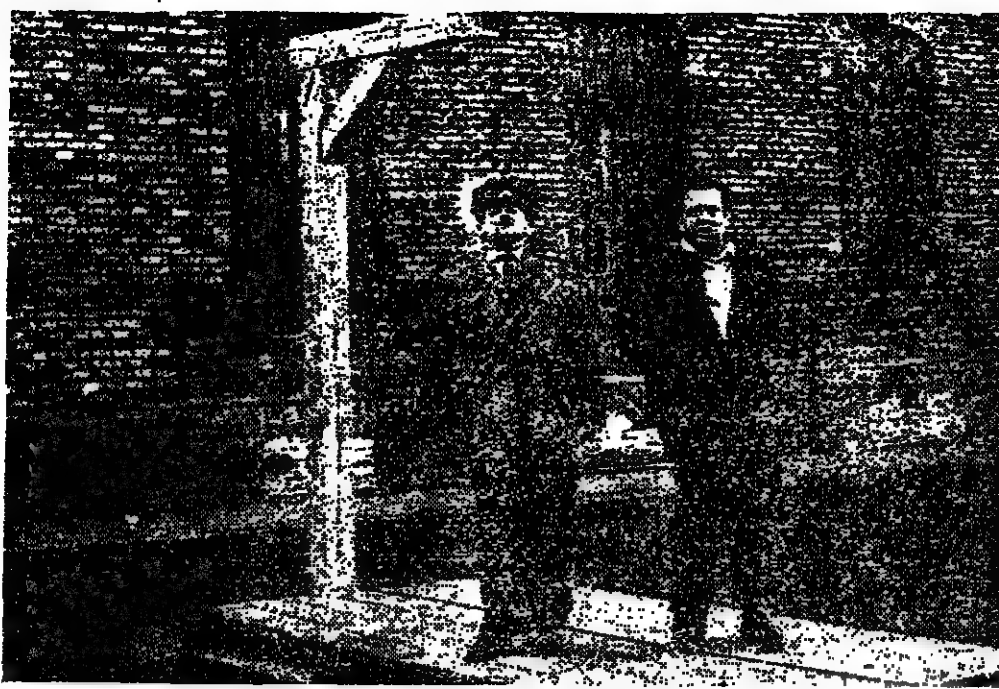
Isabel Raphael

Possessed, a Gothic Novel, by Witold Gombrowicz (Marion Boyars, £4.50)

The work (novels, stories, plays) of Witold Gombrowicz has been likened — in *Le Monde* — to a rocket launched from the property of a pre-war Polish gentleman: certainly an apt image for *Possessed*, in which his existentialist preoccupations glint through a richly Gothic plot and setting, complete with haunted castle, mad prince with sinister secretary, dark pine forests and quaking bogs, and a yellowing towel writhing sinisterly on a peg in the Old Kitchen. What does it all mean? Why do the young tennis coach and the seductive daughter of crumbling Polish gentry feel they share the same identity? Why do they seem alternately so evil and so attractive? Gombrowicz, who died in exile in 1969, gives us little chance to ponder as he rushes us at immensely enjoyable speed from Mysluch castle to seedy pick-up joints in Warsaw and back. But the questions, more teasingly woven into such major works as his novels *Foetus* and *Cosmos*, and his play *Princess Ivona*, echo through this brilliantly crafted romp, admirably translated by J. A. Underwood from a French version of the Polish original.

Roger Berthoud

Cinema: Berlin Festival
Trial by jury regaining favour



"The Witness" — satirical comedy to rank with "Schweik"

In the political atmosphere of the late Sixties and early Seventies, competitive film festivals went out of favour: the sporting element was deemed frivolous and irrelevant to a medium of the cinema's political and artistic importance. Some festivals, like Venice, abandoned their traditional awards altogether. Others, like Cannes and Berlin, with greater political acumen, introduced non-competitive events alongside the main festival — Cannes' "Directors' Fortnight", Berlin's "Young Film Forum".

Now, though, competitive events are creeping back into favour, and there is no question that awards and prizes can add distinct piquancy to events. In Manila a couple of weeks ago, for instance, the jury, headed by Satyajit Ray, staged a brief strike against the festival authorities requesting (or, indeed, instructing) them to delete from their report an expression of regret that the Philippine cinema was not represented in competition. The closing ceremonies were held up three-quarters of an hour, and the Presidential couple sat in the middle of the empty jury seats, until the festival conceded, and the jury took their places.

Berlin as yet promises no such jury drama. The president is Jean Pontaine, once the festival's director and exquisite of Hollywood's stars. It is

said that she read a manual on procedure on the flight from California, and conducts meetings with an iron-handed professionalism.

Dispirited, like the rest of us, with the poor competitive showing of the first days, the jury members can often be glimpsed escaping to the retrospective shows for

which Berlin has become famous. This year's retrospectives are dedicated to James Stewart and the German émigré Hollywood director Curtius Bernhardt, whose films include several with the young Ronald Reagan. Films like *Lubitsch's The Shop Around the Corner* or *Bernhardt's A Stolen Life*

demonstrate how the old Hollywood studio system made possible, even in the most insignificant melodramas, standards of craftsmanship now practically forgotten, as festival entries painfully demonstrate. As it happens, one of the best films showing in the Young Film Forum, Peter

Concerts
Postwar musical climates

Sinfonietta/Howarth

Queen Elizabeth Hall

"The Manchester School", the London Sinfonietta calls its current series of concerts. Even then there was no confusing Birtwistle's music with Goehr's, the Sinfonietta's (nor with that of John Ogdon, or Elgar Howarth, also of their group).

The distinctions have grown ever since: they were never a "school" any more than Les Six, or the Frankfurt Group, or the Kuchel. What those boys from the Royal Manchester College of Music did, separately and collectively, was to bring British music, quite naturally, into the post-war climate typified by the Darmstadt summer school in Germany.

In Tuesday night's concert, Harrison Birtwistle had the first half to himself. Goehr and Davies contributing a work each to the second half. The gulf between the three composers seemed obvious, but not very wide. They all still write music for practical performance, though they are lucky to have such virtuoso, sensitive exponents as the Sinfonietta conducted by their fellow alumnus Howarth.

Birtwistle's fascination with classical Greek tragedy is evident in the National Theatre's *Oresteia*, and his forthcoming *Orpheus* opera, was recalled in his *Tragedia* of 1965, a study in the choral forms of Greek tragedy, soon to reach fruition in the English opera *Pandora*. *Judith*, *Tragedia* remains among his most durably impressive pieces, hard and determined, yet poetically most eloquent, given such an assured, affectionately moulded reading as Howarth obtained.

The Sinfonietta revived Birtwistle's tenth anniversary offering to them, *Carmen Arcadis*, mechanistic perpe-

tuum, a marvellous piece of musical clockwork mechanism which does not sound mechanical at all, but simply a virtuoso study in stasis and movement, followed by a more flexible enterprise on the same lines, *Pulse Sampler* for oboe solo, an amazing, alluring performance by Melinda Maxwell, with Antony Fay as her conductor-advisor on the claves.

Alexander Goehr's *Concerto for Eleven* is more obviously entertaining by intention, with a warm-hearted homage to the inter-war Stravinsky, common to their generation. *A Mirror of Whitering Light*, which Maxwell Davies composed for London Sinfonietta, came last, fortunately, because after such a display of musical cinema one could not bear to hear anything else. Neither Birtwistle nor Goehr has hymned natural landscape or landscape with such passionate precision, nor such scrupulous euphony of means — though Davies's two symphonies have elaborated on similar topics, they cannot surpass this extraordinary vision.

William Mann

LPO/Svetlanov

Festival Hall

It is some years since Yevgeny Svetlanov last appeared with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, and he did so on Tuesday by agreement with the LPO, with whom he is presently associated as a replacement for Eugen Jochum. He is also taking charge of the London Philharmonic's concerts at Croydon next Saturday and Ipswich on Sunday, when other audiences will no doubt find, as we did, that he has built an effective rapport with the players.

Having been less than happy about Mr Svetlanov's way with Wagner a couple of

seasons ago, I was agreeably surprised that his choice of Elgar's *Enigma Variations* this time yielded a generally more attractive impression. It is always fascinating to find what somebody, not of the English tradition, will make of these character portraits in music, and the Soviet visitor began with the evident understanding that they are all about friendship.

He presented them like the musical equivalent of a conversation-piece in painting, moving the focus from one to the next with clarity of outline and occasional sharp detail beneath a somewhat stolid surface. The introduction was heavy and several variations moved more slowly than seemed customary, but although the light-footed "Dorabella" was of their number, she proved to have the pulse that Elgar marked, and "Nimrod" and the finale were well judged.

When he moved to Brahms after the interval, the conductor first of all underplayed the conventionally autumnal associations of the fourth symphony by invigorating the spirit of the opening movement, to which the orchestra responded with warmth of phrasing and tonal richness. Then he made much of the different pulls of tonality on the Andante in a way that made familiar music begin to seem almost unpredictable, thereby adding to its charm.

Svetlanov was firmly disciplined throughout, not least in the solid passacaglia foundation of the symphony's finale, in which the first entry of the trombones acquired hieratic splendour and the end of the symphony was wonderfully bright. The overture to Rossini's *William Tell* at the start of the programme was also rescued from its extravagance of spirit and sent on its way with heartfelt affection from Alexander Ganyom's eloquent principal cello.

Noel Goodwin

Theatre

Colette

National Platform

This is a self-portrait of Colette, compiled and performed by Patti Love as one of the National Theatre's 6 o'clock platform shows. As you would expect, it contains some lovely writing: descriptions of insects that teach you how to look at them, coolly precise dissections of the human heart, wry reflections on the penalties of old age when "pain is ever young and active"; all communicating a huge appetite for every form of life, coupled with the dispassionate skills of a botanical observer.

The show is not on such solid ground as an autobi-

ography, whizzing Colette from her Burgundian childhood through her three marriages, her stage career, her writing life and her arthritic retirement in 50 minutes flat. For one thing, Miss Love fails to draw a clear line between the Colette who is telling the story and the Colette who is acting it out. She emerges out of darkness as a figure in her middle-class drawing room, eye level, then retreats to youth and winds up as a rather improbable old lady in a shawl. It is fine when she goes into a formal routine, like a joke odalisque number, she dances to *Scherzade*, but all too often she is stranded between narrative and enactment, and delivering her material into thin air instead of to us.

Rock

Bo Diddley

100 Club

His first guitar strokes, ringing chords saturated with artificial tremolo and a cutesy boogie, instantly denoted Bo Diddley's authority. A founding father he may be, but at 51 he is alert enough to arouse listeners half his age during his present, remarkably successful tour of London's clubs. Confronted by a packed, sweating and extraordinarily enthusiastic house, Diddley performed with great good humour, pulling elaborate tricks from his rectangular-bodied guitar: creaking doors and chainsaws on "I'm a Man", roaring vee-eights and

squealing tyres on "Road-runner", basic blues licks phrased with masterly timing on "Little Girl", a loose-limbed boogie. The general lack of profundity only served as a reminder that he belongs to the tradition of novelty singers associated with the blues, a line stretching back through medicine shows to the misty heritage of Africa.

Initially there were fears that he might suffer from the curse which customarily afflicts blues veterans on British tours: inexperienced white rock musicians hired as accompanists, on the cheap. Diddley's quartet of aggressive young New Yorkers may have displayed a degree of naivety in the opening set, which was

mainly devoted to their own rather unsubtle compositions, but subsequently they served the star with about as much skill and respect as could be desired, and a haircut beat on demand with satisfying synchronisation and leaving plenty of space for Diddley's lengthy guitar ruminations.

Presumably it was Diddley's own idea to change the tempo of "Boa", to a silly goose-stepping beat; elsewhere the band swung mightily on a "Little Girl" (despite a rather alarming acceleration) and hammered out the ancient riff which supports the sexual boasting of "I'm a Man" with suitable intensity.

Richard Williams

Television
Desperate energy

There was only one thing wrong with East 103rd Street, Chris Menges's mesmerising new film about a Puerto Rican family in the Spanish Harlem district of New York: at just under 90 minutes it was too long. Menges is a marvellous director-photographer who uses the camera with unfailing intelligence, sympathy and discretion, and views the world with something of a painter's eye. The result might be a violent swirling landscape of urban desolation, as in Stephen Poliakoff's *Bloody Kids*, or it might draw on the more patient, watchful tradition of urban portraiture of artists like Millet or Degas, as here. For full effect his work demands editing of comparable quality. Receiving it here from Kit Davies — and the succinct span of, say, a single hour. That said, *East 103rd Street* remains beautiful and memorable.

Menges shot much of it from inside a van parked in the street, and the protection — of Tony, her children Candy and Danny, their neighbours, friends and sidewalk hangers-on. Most of them make their living from selling drugs in the street; the temperature was 101 degrees and the thick air rang languidly with the cries of old New York: "Loose joints! Loose joints!" "Black smoke! Good smoke!" and the undeniable "If you don't buy you won't get high!"

David Robinson

Tony herself, once lively and attractive, was a heroin addict. "Don't call me ma", she murmured to Danny. "Sound like a mother sells her son dope." She meant it sounded bad to us, the viewers and strangers (it was no news to anyone else, but if there was any acting to camera in *East 103rd Street* it merely intensified feelings and emotions already there: Tony's hopelessness, the lassitude with which Danny, at 20, was going the same way, and the desperate energy with which the gorgeous Candy was trying to stop him. Round and round the clichés trod, as they do tread in life, but occasionally a good line shot out — "I'm gonna die before the future comes" — and even, in a funny one: "I told you I was gonna quit after this picture."

Two mistakes recently: Geoff Powell, not Geoff Hall, was the meticulous Beardsley-esque designer of *Aubrey*, and Robert Coote, not Robert Morse, arrived at the British Section of Heaven with David Niven in *A Matter of Life and Death*. Sorry.

Michael Ratcliffe

● Not in front of the Audience, a stage show featuring the cast of BBC Television's *Not the Nine O'Clock News*, opens at the Drury Lane Theatre on April 13.

Galleries
Style in practice

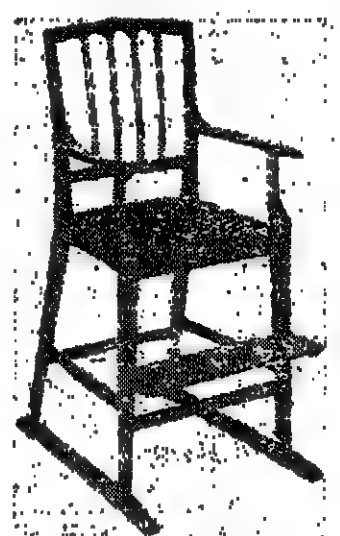
Edward Barnsley: Sixty Years of Furniture Design and Cabinet Making

Fine Art Society

Barnsley is one of the magic names in the Arts and Crafts movement. In 1885 Ernst Cresson and the brothers Sidney and Ernest Barnsley put Morrisian notions of going back to the land into practice by moving their furniture workshops from London to Gloucestershire, and individually and together made much of the finest Arts and Crafts furniture during the next few years. In 1900 William Edward Barnsley was born, the first son of Sidney Barnsley. It was almost inevitable, given such a background, that he should be attracted into craftsmanship in wood, and by the time he was five he had already made (with some parental help) a small table.

Since then he has hardly stopped. After service in the First World War he entered his father's workshop, and by 1923 he had a workshop of his own; it was not until 1976 that he made the last piece with his own hands, and the workshop still continues to take on new apprentices and receive more orders than it can cope with. It has successfully survived the period when crafts were at their lowest in public estimation, and now again finds itself in the forefront of renewed interest in the craftsman-designer and his work.

The furniture of the workshop, often designed by Barnsley and generally carried out under his close supervision, is not actually by his own hand, is solid and sensible, with crisp clean lines and showing particular sensitivity to the qualities of the specific woods used. This is emphatically practical furniture, for use in everyday life. But it is also very stylish, moderating its sturdy Arts and Crafts base with what has been going on in furniture design here and



The elegance of a Barnsley high chair, made of cherry-wood with sycamore inlay, by George Taylor in 1971

elsewhere during the last six decades. Sometimes it comes as a bit of a surprise to see hints of Fifties spindly styling, or to learn that inside the African mahogany there may be a Formica lining. But even these possible aberrations are overcome, and the development through 1923 to the present is remarkably consistent — as indeed is the apostolic succession going back well into the nineteenth century.

It is an interesting feature of the exhibition catalogue that it contains what is known, details of the hours spent on making each piece and the original cost, which sometimes emerges as amazingly reasonable compared with the contemporary mass-produced equivalent. Luckily the child who would be brought up in anything as elegant and practical as a Barnsley high chair — especially as he should be able to hand it on in due course to his great-grandchildren — that is, supposing some museum has not snaffled it first.

After its London run (until tomorrow) the show will be at the Holburne of Menstrie Museum, Bath, from April 3 to June 13.

John Russell Taylor



HE WAS
D.H. LAWRENCE
SHE WAS
HIS LADY CHATTERLEY
THEIR
EXTRAORDINARY
ROMANCE
WAS MORE
TEMPESTUOUS
THAN ANY HE WROTE.

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Four voices from the West: Maurice Couve de Murville, former French Prime Minister, emphasises the need for Europe to share in its own defence

We need the Americans, but we are adults too

Paris
Is the Atlantic Alliance ailing? Is it in danger of breaking apart, even of ceasing to exist? In the United States there is no talk of abandoning this non-negotiable ally which is Europe? In other words, is the western world threatened with a serious erosion of strength in the face of a Soviet Union which is said to be becoming stronger, more confident each day, and against which the democracies' spirit of resistance weakens to the point where it tends to disappear altogether?

With only a little exaggeration, is this not the feeling abroad in the United States, while Europe seems uncertain, divided, practically on the point of surrender?

That the alliance is in a state of crisis is something which I have been hearing throughout the 30 years of its existence. One needs only to recall the "United States go home" of the French left in the early days, the panic created among Europeans by America's total involvement in the Vietnam war, the shock provoked among some people by Kennedy's reaction to the Cuban crisis, the near-conflict of 1973 over the stopover in Europe of an American aircraft sent to the aid of Israel.

One needs only to recall the withdrawal from Nato decided by de Gaulle, and the dismissal of American forces from French territory, along with the unqualified condemnation of it pronounced at the time by the allies; the scandal caused by the decision of Willy Brandt in 1970 to go ahead with the Ostpolitik without consulting, or even warning, Washington.

And finally, quite recently, there were the massive demonstrations against nuclear weapons and, in a sense, against the United States, in a number of countries of Northern Europe, starting with West Germany.

If I look back into the past, the reason is that the Atlantic Alliance was born and has always existed in a state of ambiguity.

The original ambiguity was the nature of the American commitment, and consequently the extent of the security guarantees given by the stronger to the weaker.

In 1949, America alone had nuclear weapons. No country, including the Soviet Union, could have stood up to it. And yet America did not agree to any unconditional commitment: in the event of a threat of war, there would be consultations, and then one would see.

Subsequently, Russia acquired nuclear weapons and became a formidable opponent. The United States then simply revised its strategy, and there was a graduated response.

The second ambiguity arose from the respective situations of the United States and its allies in about 1950. The first was at the peak of its political and economic power, the second were just emerging from a terrible war waged on their territory.

At the end of the war, the former decided, ordered... and paid. There was no question of discussion. Little by little, the United States might have behaved a little less as the boss, agreed to discuss and even to take into account the standpoint of its allies.

That is certainly what happened in economic matters, especially after the great dollar crisis, as a matter of course, or rather because of the balance of power. That did not happen in any way in the political, and therefore in the military field. And here is one of the deeper causes of the present crisis. Add to this the fact that American military protection has not maintained 100 per cent credibility for the past 20 years.

This underestimation, not to speak of the underestimation of the other is summed up strikingly in a statement made in 1974 by Henry Kissinger and often quoted, according to which the United States is concerned



with world problems, while the Europeans limit themselves to regional ones. The consequences of such offhandness, difficult to endure and scarcely realistic, could only get worse as American policy became more hesitant and consequently less credible. It is not so easy to be the boss: one has to inspire confidence as well. But in these years, this confidence has begun to waver.

Of the three leading countries of Western Europe, I do not speak of Britain, whose judgment and outlook are in general close to the views of the United States, if only because the latter judges everything from the angle of Moscow's real or supposed actions, and is in competition everywhere with the Soviet Union, exactly as the British Empire was in the past with the Empire of the Czars.

France is in a different category. For 20 years now, it has taken the liberty of expressing judgments on American policy and of not being systematically in agreement. Events have not always proved France wrong.

Now it is the turn of West Germany to think for itself. But here, everything is different. If France has rediscovered its judgment and its national ambitions in Europe, Germany is obviously in a different situation, since it is divided. For the 25 years that followed the war, it thought only of reconstruction and of the recovery of its moral standing in the world.

That objective having been fully achieved, 1970 marked a turning point, characterized by the Ostpolitik, which was the beginning of a rediscovered national policy, and which, for that reason, was at the time severely condemned by Kissinger. It involved, on the basis of the status quo, establishing relations with the socialist world, and first with East Germany.

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That objective having been fully achieved, 1970 marked a turning point, characterized by the Ostpolitik, which was the beginning of a rediscovered national policy, and which, for that reason, was at the time severely condemned by Kissinger. It involved, on the basis of the status quo, establishing relations with the socialist world, and first with East Germany.

This underestimation, not to speak of the underestimation of the other is summed up strikingly in a statement made in 1974 by Henry Kissinger and often quoted, according to which the United States is concerned

with world problems, while the Europeans limit themselves to regional ones. The consequences of such offhandness, difficult to endure and scarcely realistic, could only get worse as American policy became more hesitant and consequently less credible. It is not so easy to be the boss: one has to inspire confidence as well. But in these years, this confidence has begun to waver.

Of the three leading countries of Western Europe, I do not speak of Britain, whose judgment and outlook are in general close to the views of the United States, if only because the latter judges everything from the angle of Moscow's real or supposed actions, and is in competition everywhere with the Soviet Union, exactly as the British Empire was in the past with the Empire of the Czars.

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Anti-nuclear demonstration in West Germany result partly from the fact that the Germans have no national nuclear arsenal and can therefore consider only with misgiving an American arsenal the decision on the use of which is out of their hands and which does not even afford them a guarantee of absolute security.

This is no coincidence that France is the only western country not to indulge in the same errors, because it has non-integrated nuclear weapons of its own, however modest, and has thus recovered a sense of responsibility for its own defence. This also explains why France is willing to make budgetary sacrifices for this defence which the others obstinately refuse, in spite of the injunctions of Nato.

Such being the overall picture, what should one think of the present state of the Atlantic alliance and of its future? However paradoxical it may seem after the thoughts I have just expressed, and whatever present controversies and agitation, I have no hesitation in saying that this future is not in question.

In short, the Atlantic alliance remains, in the present state of the world, the irreplaceable foundation of a general equilibrium, failing which the world would be immediately in danger. Even in Europe, it achieves a balance between Eastern Europe dominated by the Soviet military giant, and Western Europe which, without the tutelar shadow of the American military giant, would be instantly submerged. So much for the European point of view.

The American standpoint is broader. Russians and Americans confront one another in the world at large, in the most cautious possible manner, and almost always through other countries. They do so in a general state of relative equilibrium. If, in a key area, one or the other of these giants came to predominate, the other would almost immediately be threatened everywhere. That is the case in Western Europe, more than in any other area, including the Near and Middle East, because the only real sources of economic, technological and

are on offer, failing the possibility of having any of one's own.

One should also become aware of national responsibilities for defence, if only as an inevitable consequence of a rediscovered awareness in matters of foreign policy.

On the American side, it would be desirable to agree to treat the Europeans as adults, really to consult them, to try to reach agreement with them: when the matter is important, and especially to cease presenting them always with a fait accompli. One dreams also of a real American foreign policy which takes realities into account and agrees to look at real problems without confining itself to the over-simple method of making the Russians the scapegoats for all the ills of the world. But this would imply that American leaders were not systematically obsessed by domestic political considerations.

I know full well that here I enter into the world of dreams, but are dreams not allowed when what is involved is one's own country, one's friends, and the peace of the world?

The author was French Foreign Minister from 1958 to 1968 and Prime Minister 1968-69.

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Tomorrow: James Callaghan



Ronald Butt

Why sex is a hot topic for the SDP

Mrs Shirley Williams has been a statutory political woman for much of her life in politics, so I suppose it is only natural that she should now wish not only to translate this benefit to her sex into the arrangements of her new party, but to expand it into something grander.

For more years than I can remember, Mrs Williams' position in the Labour Party was secured by her astute election to the National Executive Committee by the Women's Section.

Last weekend, she was in the forefront of a battle at the Social Democrats' constitutional convention to give women not merely a few guaranteed places (elected by other women) on the Council for Labour Democracy but to reserve for women half the places on what is to be the highest policy-making body of the new party.

In this enterprise, Mrs Williams was promoting the general cause passionately supported by Ms Polly Toynbee of the Women's Page of *The Guardian*, which as well as being one of the funniest features in journalism today offers a remarkable insight into the priorities of the feminists who dominate it.

Their theory is, of course, that men and women should be "equal" in career terms everywhere, and that there should be no occupations or circumstances that are held to be more appropriate to one sex than the other.

Yet in practice, most of them have shown comparatively little interest in it. In fact, foreign, diplomatic, defence or political journalism, if they had (and, if they possessed suitable flair and ability) they could have made their way in these fields as well as in the more traditional women's journalism.

But they have preferred (and is it not a kind of inverted sexism?) women's journalism. What agitates them day by day are women's equality, sexual problems, liberal abortion, the permissive society, divorce and the rights of the lesbian mother.

Men are stereotyped (to borrow from their vocabulary) into the types of suppressed rapist or the gentle soul conditioned by society to a toughness that hides a natural disposition to weep and wash up.

The spirit of *Guardian* Woman is now active in the upper reaches of the SDP but down in the broad plain where the new party members among the electorate are fortunately different. The convention, for instance, defeated a weird statement, proposed by the steering committee and defended in a speech by Ms Toynbee, to the effect that the party would have no concern for the individual regardless of "sexual orientation".

What "orientation" means is anyone's guess. Ms Toynbee invited the convention to see it as evidence of the party's commitment to the fair treatment of minorities of all kinds, naming homosexuals and persecuted lesbian mothers. Well, to mention the disagreeable truth, there are other sorts of "orientation" as well, including the rapist's and the paedophile's and a few more than mental.

Fortunately, the Social Democrats escaped a commitment to be concerned for all of these by the good sense of men and women voting on that issue. It did not suppose that the SDP was much liked at headquarters. "Why do men so desperately need to be included in everything?" asked a pained article in *The Guardian* recently. The egalitarian's vision was well-known.

There is a tug-of-war between the egalitarians and the sensible ones often. The latter, who provide the SDP rank and file. Attitudes on the floor last weekend were encouraging to common sense. Only one potential mistake was made—the decision that the leader should be elected by the party membership and not by its MPs.

In the short term, that can be justified on the grounds that none of the new party's MPs except Mrs Williams, was elected as a Democrat. But ultimately, when the system is reviewed, the leader's election should be restored to the parliamentary party that he or she must lead. It is as important that the SDP should remain a solidly parliamentary party (it was the dominance of the party machine that its founders left Labour) as that it should avoid dogmatic commitments that subject liberty, choice and ability to the obsession with enforced equality.

Lucy Hodges is the author of *Out in the Open? The School Records Debate* published today by Writers and Readers Publishing Cooperative in association with Chameleon, £2.50 paper-back.

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Novel spot
Six years ago E. L. Doctorow's novel *Ragtime* was received with rave, or at worst lengthy, reviews. Something similar is happening now with Milos Forman's film of the book.

But it has taken a Liberal county councillor from Merv-

side to spot that a large part of Doctorow's patchwork plot of fact and fiction is adapted from Heinrich von Kleist's classic German tale, *Michael Kohlhaas*. The story of Kohlhaas, who is required to produce a pass at a spurious toll-gate, leaves two horses as surety and returns to find they have been wilfully mistreated, parallels that of Doctorow's Coalbrookshire, a ragtime piece on a private toll road, who leaves his Model T Ford, and returns to find it deliberately damaged.

While congratulating Council for Allan Brame of Birkenhead on detecting that which reviewers missed, PHS should make it clear that Doctorow's lack of knowledge of the characters' names, Doctorow did mention von Kleist as a writer to whom he was much attracted when PHS interviewed him in 1976.

Never on a hotline
Melina Mercouri, the actress who is now Greek Minister of Culture, has told the foreign archaeologists schools licensed to excavate in Greece that they must report finds to her ministry's directorate of antiquities, not to correspondents of foreign newspapers.

In general the schools always have reported their finds to the ministry but since the civil servants usually sat on the news, the schools had to turn to the newspapers directly in order to keep up interest at home, where the money for the digs is raised.

PHS

Telling tales out of school

and in favour of controls to prevent snooping by outside agencies, teachers and education authorities have given only cursory consideration to the issues involved. Unlike their parents and social workers they have no code of practice and, with some exceptions, remain remarkably complacent about the possibly devastating effect of what they write down and to whom they pass it on.

There are some well-documented examples of information in records preventing students from getting a job or gaining entry to the institution of their choice because the information is inaccurate or highly tendentious. One graduate rejected from 30 jobs because his head of department had been telling employers that he had been depressed and had to have treatment. This was not true and the young man eventually won an apology.

Another case involved a girl from the Home Counties—the daughter of a head-teacher who was unhappy at her state primary school. She was not getting on with her teacher, could not sleep and was refusing to go to school.

live in the waking fear that Cyril might have been carefully logging their intimacies and indiscretions, like some latter-day Freud.

They can relax. Connolly was essentially a fragmentary writer, and the volume which David Pryce-Jones is preparing for publication was his notebook and not a diary. It was discovered last summer by Connolly's widow, Deirdre, among family photograph albums which, with its leather binding and clasp, it much resembled.

"It is," says Pryce-Jones, "one man's reading of himself, occasional temperature readings of his own state of mind, sometimes an account of what a year was really like from his own point of view. There are also extended passages of description and reminiscence and a one-act playlet about bathing with George Bernard Shaw which is not at all complimentary about Shaw."

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The following night, shortly before dawn, four men were caught attempting to stampede

the herd, after police officers from no fewer than three law enforcement agencies from every part of the state had been called in to stake out the Graham ranch.

God and mammon
At the end of this month Exeter Cathedral's quarrymen down tools to make way for holiday-makers. It is a West Country sign of approaching spring.

In the winter Peter Dare, the foreman mason, and his men hack out the honey-coloured stone of which the cathedral is built from a quarry at Dunscombe Manor, near Salcombe Regis. The quarry had not been worked for centuries, save briefly to extract stone to repair Nunton Comper's church at Wolborough near Sidmouth, until the restoration of the cathedral began three years ago.

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tries also have quite stringent controls protecting information kept on people on computer from the spying eyes of outsiders. Yet Britain has done nothing about what has become known as data protection, which Ministers public was treated to a series of articles in *The Sun* which showed how easy it was to find out the most intimate details of an MP.

This total lack of regulation means that Britain is in breach of a Council of Europe convention on data protection which ministers signed last year. A White Paper is due out in the next few weeks with the intention of putting that right but whether it will meet the requirements of the convention is another matter.

From the leaks to date the Government looks as though it will be proposing regulation through voluntary codes of practice. A statutory right for people to see what is in their files will almost certainly not be proposed despite the fact that a government-appointed committee recommended in 1978 that parents should be allowed access to almost all school records "particularly

where it is factual or about the home and family circumstances, if for no other reason than to ensure accuracy".

This committee on data protection, chaired by Sir Norman Lindop, gave a series of approval to the Buckley Amendment, the law in the United States which gives parents and students over the age of 18 the right to inspect and correct school or college records.

Education Ministers and teachers' organizations have remained consistently opposed to opening up school records though some local education authorities have been unfaithful to the changing climate and have announced that parents will be able to see their children's files.

No education authority actually instructs headteachers to give parents access. Most leave it to headteachers' discretion. Some have encouraged the development of a two-tier system under which some records are open and the rest remain secret and no authority has been prepared to take on the other professionals such as educational psychologists

and doctors—who insist that records should not be seen by clients.

It is this well-established tradition of medical confidentiality with its Hippocratic Oath enjoining doctors to keep "secret secrets" which teachers draw for their own position. Most teachers see keeping secret records as part of professionalism, concerned with the transmission of information between professionals.

The National Union of Teachers remains opposed to parental access to records on schoolchildren though it is strongly in favour of teachers' having the right to see files kept on them. Confidential reports can be made by a chief education officer or an HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector) about which the teacher knows nothing, but which can affect his chances of obtaining promotion or of obtaining another teaching post," says the National Union of Teachers. Precisely—and the same thing can happen to children too.

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Rally round the alma mater

London University is to appeal to its alumni for help in the face of economic depression and government spending cuts. Professor Randolph Quirk, the Vice-Chancellor, who is planning the appeal, says he hopes the see "a speedy recognition that all graduates have a financial responsibility to their alma mater."

One tenth of 1 per cent of graduate salaries, he suggests, would adequately protect the university against what he euphemistically calls "the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune." A graduate earning £5,000 a year would contribute £5, the price of three gallons of petrol.

Quirk points out that in the United States alumni support is an essential way of life support for universities. It was alumni funds that brought the great American universities through the 1929 depression, enabling them to rebuild their campuses at a time when building prices were depressed.

Unfounded fears
Taking pity on Cyril Connolly's former wives, and lovers of both sexes—several of whom have already been on the phone—PHS feels obliged to emphasize that the journal whose existence was disclosed in this column on Tuesday was not a diary in any conventional sense of the word. How could they think it would be?

The literary demi-monde, it seems, is filled with people who

are in the walking fear that Cyril might have been carefully logging their intimacies and indiscretions, like some latter-day Freud.

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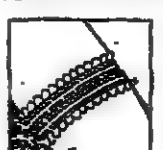
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THE TIMES DIARY



Geoffrey Greenbury, the proprietor, once reprimanded PHS for saying "panti-hose had made knickers obsolete. He boasted that his shop was selling more and more knickers "in ever increasing shapes and sizes".

This was not strictly true.

Yesterday was the last day of trading at S. Weiss, the naughty knicker shop which has been in business for the last 85 years.

Yesterday they were down to their last leopard-spot bikini, one negligee and two nighties. "We finished on a high spot," the Greenburys claimed. "After our best Christmas ever, we announced the closing down clearance and Harrods sale had nothing on us."

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MR MUGABE CRACKS THE WHIP

It is hardly surprising that Mr Mugabe should have found it necessary to dismiss Mr Nkomo from his Government. The finding of a huge cache of buried arms, enough missiles, mortars, machine guns, rifles and ammunition to equip a brigade — on property controlled by Mr Nkomo's Patriotic Front was provocative enough. The behaviour of Mr Nkomo himself was unhelpful: he has denied plotting against the Government but offered no explanation for the presence of the arms or cooperation to the security forces searching for them. The law will take its course, Mr Mugabe said. The unresolved but important question is to what degree Mr Nkomo is the unchallenged leader of the Ndebele people and whether this presages conflict between the Ndebele and the majority Shona ranged behind Mr Mugabe.

This, the latest of a series of trials that has beset the infant Zimbabwe, has been greeted with something like relief by the whites of South Africa. It is being taken as proving two of their dearly-held axioms: that black governments will always make a mess of things, and that tribal divisions are ineradicable and will always lead to conflict. Britain and the West in general have always held a more hopeful view of Mr Mugabe's performance and no doubt Lord Carrington, when he visits Salisbury next week, will convey the British Government's continuing hopes.

Mr Mugabe's biggest suc-

cess so far was to end the fighting that broke out a year ago between the troops of what had been the two rival guerrilla armies, Zippa of Mr Nkomo and Zanla of Mr Mugabe. He managed to make them into one army and to reduce it to manageable size. That some distrust remained was shown by the 20 per cent increase he later ordered in the secret police: he felt the ordinary police and army were infiltrated by the South Africans, and there was also the matter of the missing Zippa arms.

Apart from the threat of tribal war, Mr Mugabe faces the crucial test of whether his Government can succeed in keeping Zimbabwe prosperous. He has been handicapped by the massive outflow of skilled whites; this, however, was to some degree inevitable and can be overcome. (The November figures were down). He has also offended orthodox economic theory by introducing an unjustifiably high minimum wage and by doctrinaire interference with the large-scale farming that paid such big dividends when Zimbabwe was Rhodesia. Exports are down but a huge maize harvest this year should allow Mr Mugabe some leeway.

The continued detention — and alleged mistreatment — of a white Member of Parliament, Mr Wally Stuttaford, together with more than ten other whites has aroused disquiet, but apart from that Mr Mugabe has demonstrated a greater respect for due process and the rule of law than most other black

African governments — and certainly more than Mr Ian Smith's regime. The fact that he did not interfere when one of his Ministers was charged with shooting a white farmer gained him early credit.

His undisguised Marxism arouses concern in some quarters. However, he has shown a degree of pragmatism and for all his strongly anti-apartheid speeches to the Organisation of African Unity and elsewhere, a recognition of his country's economic bondage to South Africa. The Pretoria Government rubbed this in by refusing cooperation at the beginning, but there is now a degree of working together.

Another controversial matter is his oft-expressed desire for a one-party state. On this he told *The Times* in an interview a few weeks ago that it was not a matter to be rushed into; that all sides of opinion needed to be sheltered under the one umbrella; and that opportunities needed to be given for the expression of different viewpoints. These admirable sentiments and the general African bias against organized party political opposition, do not still fears about the dangers of one-party rule leading to tyranny.

Certainly, a single party which excluded so important a section of the population as the Ndebele would be unacceptable. The way in which Mr Mugabe overcomes the divisiveness of Zimbabwean society — made dramatically apparent by recent events — will be the final measure of the success of his government.

THE GOOD FORM OF PLAIN WORDS

The question of administrative forms does not normally inflame the imagination of academic or journalist commentators. They are however a crucial instrument in government's relations with the governed. A good form enables information of wide application to be conveyed more accurately, more concisely and more cheaply than any other means. Some two thousand million forms and leaflets gush forth from Whitehall each year, 36 for every man, woman and child in the kingdom. Grants, benefits, taxes, and information on a myriad aspects of government activity are transmitted to and from the citizen in this way. To the average Briton the central government manifests itself not as devoted individual civil servants but more often as this ocean of paper. It is therefore extremely important that the paper face of government be acceptable.

The White Paper on Administrative Forms in Government issued yesterday sets out the results of a survey of the flow of forms from Whitehall and suggests mechanisms to control it and make it more effective. Techniques for monitoring costs, design and drafting are to be established both within departments and centrally through the new Management and Personnel Office — the administrative ramp of the former Civil Service Department which here makes an encouraging public bow.

The scope for financial savings is striking. It is estimated that the production cost alone is at least £200 million a year, and the staff costs in processing them run to many times that. It is

difficult, and depressing, to try to assess the community cost in filling in forms; but those from the DHSS are assessed at over £200 million a year, so the total must run above a billion. Clearly bad and unnecessary forms waste a great deal of money and savings of a few per cent in efficiency are well worth having (equalling and potentially obviating some of the more devastating cuts intended for higher education, for example).

More important than the particular economies are the administrative principles behind the exercise. First is the commendable insistence that the needs of the consumer be elevated in the minds of the producer of forms. Too often hitherto they have been drafted in Whitehall with little consultation either with the customer public or even with the local civil servants who have to deal with costly confusions arising from impenetrably legalistic prose and sloppy lay-out. Apparently the officials themselves sometimes do not understand the forms they send out and error rates of over 30 per cent, either by staff or public, are common. Henceforward we are promised more prior costing and pilot-testing of new forms, and senior civil servants will be encouraged to go out and consult the sharp end of government.

At the heart of this and the other related scrutinies of civil service operations initiated by Sir Derek Rayner since he entered government in 1979 is a theme which is both obvious and yet, compared to past British practice, revolutionary: that good government means good

administration, and that therefore efficient policy implementation is as important as policy formulation. Most of the present generation of top mandarins have advanced in a tradition which emphasizes skills at policy advice to ministers rather than administrative management. Indeed they must remain heavily concerned with policy formulation since that is what ministers want. But the private citizen or businessman, who pays heavily for his bureaucracy, also wants good administration. Permanent secretaries must now place increased emphasis on this, in their training programmes, in promotion criteria, and in themselves setting an example to line management.

There are already encouraging signs of change. Sir Derek has sensibly worked through the civil service rather than against it, using teams of civil servants to conduct the surveys behind this white paper. Some departments are already setting a good example: notably the excellently led Department of Health and Social Security and even the oft-maligned Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise. A remarkable opportunity to advance this cause in fact lies ahead of the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Civil Service, Baroness Young, who have so far given Sir Derek worthy support. Several permanent secretaries retire soon. Mrs Thatcher should make it clear that in filling these vacancies, excellence in administering citizens and civil servants will be as important a qualification as skill in manipulating ministers. Good government should be good for all of us.

that shechita is certainly no less humane than any other form of slaughter.

Kindness to animals is a basic principle of Jewish teaching and the Bible contains many injunctions to this effect. The act of shechita has been designed specifically to avoid pain.

In this respect it is apposite to add that many reports are available of failures in pre-stunning methods, thus producing extreme distress and pain to the unfortunate animals involved.

Let me say finally that the RSPCA, although openly antagonistic to shechita, has recently stated (RSPCA Today, autumn, 1981), "we have been unable to provide sufficient evidence of unnecessary suffering to prove that pain or excessive distress occurred between cutting the throat and loss of consciousness."

Yours faithfully,
SYDNEY TORRANCE,
Chairman, Shechita Committee,
The Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Woburn House,
Upper Woburn Place, WC1.

Ethnic schooling

From Mr Michael Adams
Sir, Councillor Hilary Benn (February 12) based his letter on

one false and questionable assumption. The false assumption is that a child's education begins when he first sends him to school, the function of the school being to educate him. The questionable assumption is that it is desirable that local education authorities should have a monopoly in the business of contributing schools to the national schools system.

In fact, of course, education begins at birth and it is those who surround and influence the child in his earliest years who control the extent to which he either coheres with the general community or stands off from it. Since it is the all too common experience of those who work in schools that the values presented to the child by the parents may not agree with the values the school tries to present and that, where the two conflict, it is the parental values which usually prevail, why not give the parents as wide a choice as possible of schools for their children?

The proposition that it is not possible for a population containing elements of different ethnic origins to achieve integration unless all their children attend common schools is not only untrue but is contradicted by the history of the British nation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ADAMS,
Hazelhurst,
Dymock,
Gloucestershire.

Passing judgment on El Salvador

From Mrs Katharine Thwaites

Sir, You do not give, nor is it easy to see, any hard evidence to support either your assumption (leading article, February 8) that Marxist guerrillas would be willing to "negotiate" for any reason less than a complete takeover in El Salvador or that it is unquestionably the official regime which is responsible for the "coldblooded killing of thousands of people" in that country.

To begin with it is surely unjust not to mention that, in time of war no government, however democratically inclined, is in a position to attend to domestic reforms or to allow its people all those "human rights" they could expect to enjoy in peacetime. But more importantly you seem not to attach any significance to the undoubted fact that American participation in the war is by far the greatest obstacle to a guerrilla victory — the possibility of which you rightly deplore — and that therefore the single most important factor making clear the only way to support the guerrillas must be to limit Washington's aid to the Salvadorean Government.

Apart from the use of violence, which is being stepped up with what degree of success, your article makes clear the only way to bring pressure to bear on a democratic administration such as exists in Washington is through the manipulation of public opinion. And so we should not be surprised to find, indeed in the light of experience, we should expect to find, a massive propaganda campaign the purpose of which is to blacken the reputation of the regime in El

Salvador as totally to discredit anyone who comes to its aid.

Of course it would be foolish to discount the probability that the Salvadorean Government's hands are anything but clean and consequently that enemy propaganda may have plenty to build on, but it is even more foolish to leave out of account the greater evil with which that government has to contend. To concentrate one-sidedly on the misdoings of the regime in El Salvador is to behave like the onlooker who, not content with excusing himself for not intervening, is violently attacked in the street on the ground that the victim allegedly beats his wife on Saturday nights, goes on to hurl abuse at the unfortunate fellow because he hits back at his assailant below the belt.

Constant emphasis on the undoubted shortcomings of "right wing" governments desperately struggling to establish law and order in the teeth of subversion and violence effectively supports those who make it their business to exploit the incredible occurrence of human injustice whenever it is to be found. And while the problem of dealing with this political evil, which is freedom from a worldwide scale, may well seem to be insuperable, it is very certain that we shall not begin to find a solution unless we first bring ourselves to look it full in the face.

Yours faithfully,
KATHARINE THWAITES,
Micklestone,
Winchester,
Hampshire,
February 9.

Law on contempt

From Mr R. C. Macdonald

Sir, May I, as a practising solicitor, accept the invitation in your leader (February 13) and show why, far as my profession is concerned, Lord Scarman's view is quite unacceptable?

It must be recognized, in the first place, that very great weight is placed upon a solicitor's undertaking both by the profession itself and by its controlling body, the Law Society. Unlike the protection of "privilege", which is the client's privilege and not his own, the undertaking is personal to the solicitor and fully binding on him. It is a matter of honour that he should give and it is binding until implemented. It is his duty to implement it properly and to the best of his ability. Its proper performance goes to the heart of the integrity of the profession.

In this context for Miss Harman to say, as she is reported to have said, "The Lords have made it a black day for press freedom and for the openness of the court," is to avoid the real issue, which she as a solicitor must well know. It would be an even blacker day for the profession and for public confidence in it, if undertakings, given in the course of professional business to fellow solicitors as happens in this case, could be capable of

being broken without sanction at the behest of the solicitor giving them.

Gravely as Lord Scarman is respected in the profession, if his view were to prevail, it would be tantamount to undermining the whole purpose of the undertaking; and it is going a little far to say, as he is in effect saying, that it is "an exercise of one's fundamental freedom" to be allowed to break one's word, simply because other factors have intervened.

It must also be recognized that a solicitor, as an officer of the court, has a duty both to his client and to the Court, and that he cannot remain subject to disciplinary action by the Law Society for having broken her undertaking. The Home Office has been entirely right to pursue the matter as a matter of fundamental principle is involved.

Yours faithfully,
R. C. MACDONALD,
Macdonald, Bogg and Company,
30 Grove Road,
Sutton, Surrey.

Lead in petrol

From Mr Tony Durant, MP for Reading, North (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader of February 9 complains that the Government's action last May to reduce the level of lead in petrol from 0.4 grams per litre to 0.15 by 1985 was a "disastrous" compromise. In fact, the Government chose the course of action that would make the biggest reduction in lead emission in the shortest possible time.

The letter of Sir Henry Yellowless, which you refer to, was written before the case presented earlier to the Government by Professor Lawther's working party. This recommended that we should take steps to reduce people's exposure to lead in a number of areas, including water and paint as well as petrol. Far from covering up the evidence on petrol and ignoring it, the Government acted directly and speedily on it because of its deep concern at the trend of the scientific evidence, though further research was commissioned.

Setting the permitted lead content of petrol at 0.15 will reduce the annual emission level from about 7,000 tonnes to 2,400 tonnes, an immediate and dramatic cut in the risk our children will face.

But if the lead-free route had been chosen, the necessary period of transition — both to design and produce lead-free engines and for the new cars gradually to replace existing cars — would inevitably have resulted in higher lead levels. In fact, it has been calculated that it could be 25 years before the cumulative benefit of the lead-free approach could match that achieved by the much earlier and universal reduction to 0.15. Although the United States introduced lead-free petrol in 1974, only half the cars are currently able to use it. It is unlikely that lead-free petrol could come into use before

the end of the decade and it would take at least another 10 years for new cars capable of using lead-free petrol gradually to displace older cars. During the run-down period, therefore, some extra 80,000 tonnes of lead emissions would pollute the atmosphere.

Sir Henry Yellowless, in his letter, advised "that action should now be taken to reduce markedly the lead content of petrol in use in the United Kingdom." And that is what the Government has done.

Many of us who have campaigned for a number of years to reduce the lead in petrol welcomed this Government's initiative. We would, of course, like to go further, but we must bear in mind the need for our car industry. Along with others I will keep a watch on progress.

Yours faithfully,
TONY DURANT,
House of Commons.

Academic activity

From Dr A. T. Kuhn

Sir, I must vigorously repudiate Professor Morris's imputation to me (in his "open letter" printed in *The Times*, on February 5) of the opinion that most university academics are a bunch of layabouts. At no time have I ever suggested this, and that false assertion does all academics a great disservice.

It is true that academics enjoy a unique freedom from accountability in the way they spend their time. And some of them, as in every occupation, abuse this freedom. Their number is not large, but every honest academic (including the previous Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge in his valedictory speech) acknowledges their existence. Does Professor Morris, I wonder?

Yours faithfully,
ANSELM KUHN,
Institute of Dental Surgery,
Eastman Dental Hospital,
256 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

Amnesty's record

From Ms Janet Johnstone and Mr Peter Walker

Sir, Caroline Moorehead's article (February 9) about the appointment of Jeremy Thorpe as the new director of the British section of Amnesty International contains one or two doubly-unintentional inaccuracies concerning our fund-raising and membership.

Referring to last September's *The Secret Policeman's Other Ball*, Miss Moorehead writes that it "looked firmly set to bring its customary haul. Instead, mysteriously, possibly to the organisation's internal disputes, no directing hand guided the venture, and virtually no money has since come its way".

On the contrary, it was pre-

cisely because of the success of its immediate predecessor, *The Secret Policeman's Ball*, which to date has grossed nearly £200,000, that we consciously embarked upon a much more professional approach to maximise the potential in other media on our latest show.

Our income from the show, together with a substantial advance from records and book, already exceeds £90,000 and some of this has been sensibly invested in a full-length feature film, now entirely paid for and wholly owned by Amnesty International.

The film has already acquired a major theatrical distributor for the United Kingdom and it is to be premiered next month. With worldwide video, theatrical, and television rights plus further

Preserving Cairo's Old City

From the Chairman of the World of Islam Festival Trust, and others

Sir, In December, 1980, a conference was called by the Egyptian authorities to discuss proposals submitted in a report by Unesco in the presence of a number of international scholars and representatives of archaeological and architectural organisations. The conference requirement arose out of the inclusion of "historic Cairo" in Unesco's World Heritage List as a result of Egyptian and international appreciation of the manifold problems which now beset the buildings and people of the city. Its future welfare thus officially becomes a matter of international concern and responsibility. At the end of the conference, the Egyptian authorities agreed to implement three recommendations immediately:

1. That a Cairo Conservative Agency should be established to carry out a programme of conservation and reconstruction with funds subscribed by the Government and international agencies.
2. That there would be an immediate five-year moratorium on all commercial building or demolition in the medieval area of the city.
3. That no reinforced concrete or Portland cement would be used in any restoration or reconstruction work undertaken within the area of "historic Cairo" without the specific approval of the conservation agency.

It was also agreed that an international advisory committee would be set up to assist the conservation agency and that ICCROM would be available to supply technical advice and other

assistance such as on-site training. Both the World Bank and USAID were represented at the conference and expressed interest in helping the project.

Progress in following up the results of the conference was frustrated by difficulties arising from administrative changes in Cairo. Now, however, under the new Minister of State for Culture, H. E. Mohamed Abdel Hamid Radwan, and the new head of the antiquities organisation, Dr Ahmed Kadry, it is anticipated that measures will be taken both constructive in themselves and calculated to encourage international support.

The Old City of Cairo contains the most important concentration of Islamic architecture anywhere in the world. Current neglect is leading to an ever more rapid erosion of these monuments through both natural and commercial pressures. It is recognition of the magnitude of the problems facing the authorities in Egypt which led to their requesting international assistance and cooperation in preserving "historic Cairo".

The signatories to this letter, who were present as guests of the Egyptian authorities at the 1980 conference, ask the favour of your support in drawing attention to the critical and urgent need for international participation in preserving a cultural heritage of the highest importance.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD BEELEY,
BERNARD FEILDEN,
MICHAEL ROGERS,
ALISTAIR DUNCAN,
World of Islam Festival Trust,
33 Thurlow Place, SW7,
February 17.

Future of 'The Times'

From Lord Chitnis and Lord Young of Dartington

Sir, *The Times* is again in peril, and it is time for its readers to express their loyalty and their concern that the traditional character, editorial independence and integrity be maintained. The closure of *The Times*, even for a short period, would represent a loss to the country of an institution of irreplaceable value.

The future of a newspaper that depends so much on its readers cannot be left solely to proprietors and trades unions. The readers must have a voice. We are therefore calling for support for a body called Readers of *The Times*. Would anyone interested in saving *The Times* write to us at the address below?

Yours, etc,
CHITNIS,
YOUNG OF DARTINGTON,
9 Poland Street, W1,
February 16.

Gen Percival's shorts

From Major-General Sir Cecil Smith

Sir, It was surely unnecessary for Mr Anthony Kemp (article, February 15) to make derogatory remarks about General Percival's shorts.

From the photograph these garments seem to be the same length as those of other officers parading with him, and are in fact clearly of the regulation length of shorts worn by the British Army at this period. General Percival suffered sufficiently as the result of being G.O.C. in C. at the time of surrender of Singapore without his dress becoming, after his death, the subject of ill-informed criticism.

Yours faithfully,
CECIL M. SMITH,
Grosh, Southfield Place,
Gursey, Weybridge,
February 16.

A regular carry on

From Mrs Geraldine Lacey

Sir, Since the British supermarkets are suffering considerable inconvenience and expense in fighting the basket trolley shoplifters, I wonder if they've considered adopting the system used in Brazil.

Virtually all the supermarkets here employ youngsters to carry the customers' goods from the check-out till to their cars or houses, if they live near by. The "carriers" use special trolleys for this purpose, thereby eliminating the need for any baskets or trolleys to leave the actual shop. They receive a minimum wage from the store and the customers supplement this with a small tip.

It's an excellent system for all concerned. It provides much-needed employment, offers the customers a greatly appreciated service and solves the mysterious disappearance of baskets and trolleys. With the trolleys costing around £37 each it is arguable whether the Brazilian system would be more expensive to operate.

Yours faithfully,
GERALDINE LACEY,
As from: Rua Costa Rica,
Jardim America,
Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Aid to Somalia

From Mr Louis FitzGibbon

Sir, In a written parliamentary answer for February 11 it was stated that our aid to Somalia for 1981-82 amounts to £1.5m bilaterally, plus £3m for refugees, a total of £4.5m. If our total disbursements overseas amount to £220m, the sum being allocated to Somalia represents no more than 2.045 per cent. Further, it was said that the bilateral aid was not expected to be increased "in the coming year".

Somalia has the biggest refugee problem in Africa, while Somalia herself is one of the least-developed countries in the world. In those circumstances one can be excused from thinking that our contribution is miserly and certainly does not reflect the debt of honour owed to the people by reason of arbitrary boundaries drawn in the past.

I am sure I am not alone in suggesting that HM Government should examine its conscience in this matter, as it eventually did over the proposed cuts in the BBC external service in the Somali language. The Libya-Ethiopia-Somalia Yemen alliance poses a grave threat to the whole Horn of Africa and Somalia needs every bit of help she can get. Surely we could do more?

Yours sincerely,
LOUIS FITZGIBBON,
Langstone Towers,
Langstone,
Havant,
Hampshire,
February 11.

Badge of faith

From the Reverend Canon E. G. Longman

Sir, What an appropriate choice of the seven sacraments as the theme for the Pope's visit to Britain. The title, "Defender of the Faith", proudly carried by the Pope, and inherited from Henry VIII, was given him by Pope Leo X in 1521 for his treatise, *Assertio Septem Sacramentorum in defence of the seven sacraments*.

Yours faithfully,
E. G. LONGMAN,
Yardley Vicarage,
Birmingham,
February 11.

Evolutionary dead-end?

From Sir Roland Penrose

Sir, May I be allowed to comment briefly on the dismay I felt, as presumably did many others, when confronted with the new stamp issued for our first-class inland mail. It is good that we should be reminded of great men, should be reminded of the presence of her Majesty, but the ineptitude of the monochrome design is lamentable.

In the centre we find the hoary appearance of an aged Charles Darwin with the top of the impressive dome of his forehead sliced off and what remains covered with his signature, which is placed so as to invite its obliteration by postmarks. On either side of him creep in caricatures of the heads of two noble chelonians. One of them is apparently attempting to kiss Darwin on the mouth while the other, rearing up towards his left eye, has a diminutive profile of her Majesty, also in sepia, slipping backwards off its nose.

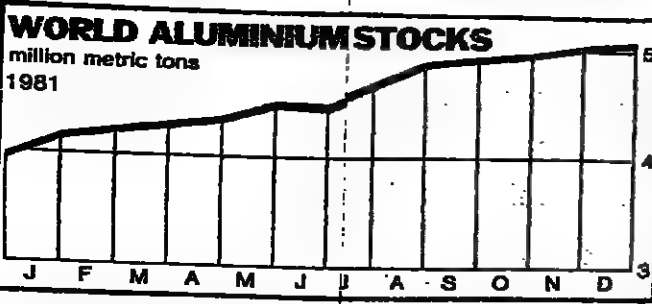
This almost unrecognisable profile of our Sovereign is effectively dwarfed by the price of this small piece of sticky paper placed on high in the opposite corner.

May we know, Sir, who is responsible for this pathetic jumble which in themselves should arouse respect and add to our national prestige, and can a way be found to stop the appalling deterioration in the design of our stamps and currency?

Yours faithfully,
ROLAND PENROSE,
Farley Farm,
Muddles Green,
Chiddingfold,
Near Lewes,
Sussex,
February 14.

BUSINESS NEWS

Global aluminium glut



World stocks of aluminium are continuing to rise in the face of a big slump in demand, one of the reasons behind the decision of British Aluminium to close its Invergoron plant in the Highlands. By the end of last year world stocks stood at 2,559,000 tonnes. Stocks of primary aluminium, which excludes scrap and finished goods, totalled 3,083,000 tonnes, a rise of over one million tonnes during the year.

Commons inquiry into money

The House of Commons' powerful Treasury and Civil Service Committee has decided to carry out an inquiry into the "international monetary system". As part of this inquiry, MPs are expected to look at the way the currency market has functioned under the system of floating exchange rates; the adequacy of world reserves; the role of the International Monetary Fund; and Special Drawing Rights, the IMF's own form of money. The all-party committee, chaired by the Conservative MP Mr Edward du Cann, may also find themselves examining the European Monetary System.

Receivers at Kitchen Queen

Kitchen Queen, the furniture group brought to the Stock Market by former stockbroker Halliday Simpson just under three years ago, but no longer publicly quoted, has gone into receivership. It will continue to trade while a buyer is sought. Kitchen Queen was sold to the Manchester businessman Mr Stephen Boler in June, 1980, for £2.1m.

BPC 'back to profit'

The British Printing Corporation is now "out of the terminal ward and restored to profitability," according to a report sent yesterday to shareholders and staff by chairman and chief executive Mr Robert Maxwell.

He estimated a loss of about £4m in 1981. The £4m has been spent on closures and 2,500 redundancies.

MARKET SUMMARY

RHM shares sweetened

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 563.6 rose 6.4
FT All Share 324.97 rose 1.77
Bargains 18,133

Ranks Hovis McDougall rose 1p to 85p last night amid reports that it had placed its 10.5 per cent stake in British Sugar which it acquired in a bid-for-bid deal last November.

RHM was unavailable for comment but shares of British Sugar rose 10p to 406p as it soon became clear that the door was open for a further bid by S. & W. Bedford, which holds 40 per cent of British Sugar.

Ranks purchased its 5.3m British Sugar shares days after British Sugar had completed a similar dawn raid on Ranks netting 14.7 per cent of the shares for £27.8m. The bid was a further advance from Bedford's, 1p dealer at 127p.

Elsewhere, Inter City Investment Group, the East London rag trade company was the star turn, jumping 19 1/2p to 270p after confirmation that the Liechtenstein registered group Mean Investment had picked up 2.4m shares or 25.74 per cent of the equity.

This led to speculation of a reverse takeover which caught the jobbers on the hop. The company after denied it had received any takeover approach.

Last year Inter City produced losses of nearly £500,000, but at this level of capitalization it is more than £5m. However, it was enough to focus attention on another member of the rag trade, Goodman Bros, which jumped 10p to 230p, after 27p, in sympathy. Once again the group denied any takeover talks and said it was unable to explain the strength of the share price.

Equities recovered some of their lost ground after the overnight rally on Wall Street with the FT index closing 6.4 up at 563.6.

Gills continued to divorce themselves from the effects of higher interest rates in the United States, confirmed by a rise in Manhattan raising its prime by 1/4 per cent to 17 per cent, with rise of 1/4 to 2 1/4 in active trade.

Associated Newspapers was a firm market jumping 7p to 193p. Brokers James Cape recommended it as a buy and are expected to release a bullish circular to that effect soon.

Moss Engineering, where Bowater the private civil engineering company holds about 14 per cent, jumped 6p to 109p on news of a £1m Saudi contract and a new finance director.

Among blue chips Bowater continued its steady rise with a further 15p to 260p amid huge speculation it was about to sell its Key Markets supermarket chain. But the company denied this.

Wood Hall Trust slipped 2p to 21p as Elder Smith & Goldstone picked up a further 4.2m shares at 215p taking its stake to 29.9 per cent.

Huntley & Palmer rose 1p to 10p still hoping for the counter bid of 150p a share from the United States food giant Nabisco. Reports spread that a bid by Nabisco had already been cleared by the Office of Fair Trading.

Huntley denied any talks of a counter bid in opposition to the original one from Rowntree, while Nabisco Standard Brands maintained a firm no comment at its headquarters in New Jersey.

Equity turnover on February 16 was £120.242m (19,380 bargains).

On Malaysian cartel proposals Dr Subroto said "we found some problems which will require further discussion - Malaysia has submitted its suggestions and we will examine them one by one."

A drop in Indonesian tin production, proposed by Malaysia in an effort to influence the international market price was ruled out by Dr Subroto.

The EEC and Japan were urged to sign the sixth ITA before April 30, and the minister appealed to the United States to stop the release of tin stockpiles as soon as possible.

US loan rates jump as Europe protests

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 17

As Belgium Prime Minister Mr Wilfried Martens, President of the EEC, complained to the White House today about high United States interest rates, key banks raised the cost of money to the highest level since November.

Mr Martens, in Washington with Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, is conveying to President Reagan the concern of EEC countries that the estimated United States budget deficit of \$91,500m for 1983 will force up interest rates and block the modest recovery in European economies expected this year.

Wall Street has been as concerned as the Europeans that budget deficits will keep up the cost of money. Analysts said today that fears of a growth in the money supply and an increase in short-term demand pushed interest rates up across the board.

Chase Manhattan, the third biggest United States bank, led an increase in the prime rate, to which other rates are pegged to 17 per cent from 16.5 per cent, the highest since November. Other banks followed suit.

Mr James Buckley, an assistant secretary of state, is preparing to visit European capitals for talks on trade with the Soviet bloc. He will discuss the provision of future financial credits to the Soviet Union and Poland.

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said at the weekend that restrictions on credits were the most promising method of tightening sanctions over the Polish situation.

Administration officials in Washington complained that an overnight monetary policy by the Federal Reserve Board in the United States central bank, has kept interest rates higher than necessary.

President Reagan put his views to Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Fed at a private meeting on Monday. The fact that it had taken place was not announced until today, an unusual delay.

The differences between the President and his advisers and the Fed on how tight a rein should be kept on the money supply have been played down, but were brought sharply into focus in reports to Congress last week.

The Fed in its six-monthly report said that high interest rates would persist at unacceptably high levels in next year unless the budget deficit were brought down, while the President's economic advisers, in their annual report, said high interest rates would fall as inflation declined and would not block an economic recovery.

Mr Martens on his visit to Washington is not pushing for any specific changes in United States economic policy, but he is stressing the worries in Europe that high interest rates would add to their own countries' problems.

The President's concerns about interest rates are reflected by his meeting with Mr Volcker, but he is unwilling to change any of the fundamentals of his budget strategy. Congress, however, is concerned to bring the deficits down and is looking at the 18 per cent increase in defence spending as its main target.

Discussions between the President and Mr Volcker were better carried on "outside the glare of public attention," Mr Larry Speakes, a White House spokesman said, explaining the reason for the delay in announcing their meeting.

He minimized any differences between the two during their discussions and said "we are generally preaching from the same pulpit on our approach to the economy."

In London trading the dollar, closed slightly higher following the latest rise in prime rates. The United States currency, which had met light profit-taking earlier in the day, closed 47 points higher at DM 2.3982. The rise in prime rates had been largely discounted in the market.

Exxon, the world's largest oil company, has decided to take a major stake in British onshore oil exploration, the first move in its London-based subsidiary Esso yesterday concluded a complicated deal giving it a significant share in the onshore oil exploration interests on Candecca, the independent British oil company.

Candecca already has one of the largest portfolios of onshore oil exploration interests in the industry, with 25 production licences in England and Scotland and another 13 production licences awaiting approval from the Department of Energy.

It also has a stake in the Humby Grove oil discovery five miles outside Basinstoke and a gas discovery at Bletchingley in Surrey, although these two interests are not covered by the Esso deal.

The basis of the deal is that Esso will pay all of Candecca's exploration costs on its onshore prospects in return for the right to acquire half of Candecca's interest. The deal initially lasts until the end of June 1983 or until Esso has spent £5m, whichever is the earlier. After that, Esso has the option of extending the deal on a licence by licence basis until 1988.

News of the deal helped to send Candecca's shares up by 14p to 197p on the Unlisted Securities Market yesterday. The company, which was originally founded by the Canadian oil company Sceptre Resources, has licences covering about 4,500 square kilometres in southern England, Humberside, Yorkshire, the east Midlands and Scotland.

It is a partner in the gas discovery at Hatfield, near Doncaster, Yorkshire, where Texan firefighters had to be called at Christmas to deal with gas explosion.

The significance of the deal is that it is the first time since onshore oil exploration started to pick up sharply three years ago that Esso has become involved. The company said last night that it was attracted by the low exploration and production costs of onshore activity, high tax regime was discouraging new activity.

Opposition and union anger at P. & O.'s decision follows similar expressions of outrage almost three years ago when the Shell-Esso partnership placed a £40m contract with another Finnish yard, Rauma Repola, for an offshore emergency and service vessel for the Norwegian sector of the North Sea.

The Finnish tender was £30m, below the £10m tender quoted for the same vessel by the lower Clyde yard of Scott Lithgow and led to allegations that the Finnish yard secured the contract with the help of a huge subsidy from the Finnish Government.

Opposition spokesman on industry Mr Stanley Orme, who has tabled a question to the Prime Minister about the placing of the contract, said together with a Type42 frigate for the Royal Navy, meant that the earliest delivery date British Shipbuilders could offer was well into 1985.

For different reasons, mainly a shortage of outfitting skills required for a cruise liner, the Belfast yard of Harland & Wolff which is desperately short of orders if it is to avoid laying off up to 1,000 workers in the next few weeks, also failed to win the order much to the chagrin of union leaders and Ulster MPs.

Because of the lack of skilled manpower, the loss-making Belfast group has concentrated its efforts on building large oil tankers and bulk carriers. Harland declined even to enter a tender for the P. & O. contract.

But Swan's existing order book, consisting of two through-deck

Exxon joins UK land oil search

By Our Energy Correspondent

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But Swan's existing order book, consisting of two through-deck



Knight: prominent role

Stock Exchange chief resigns

By Philip Robinson

Mr Robert Fell, the Stock Exchange's first chief executive, has announced his resignation after seven years. Although it is understood that he had a service contract until the end of 1983, the Exchange Council was told on Tuesday that there will be no compensation payment.

For the past four months Mr Fell had been on secondment as Commissioner for Securities and Commodities in Hongkong. His initial term was originally for six months, but the Exchange Council had asked him to continue in the job.

He will be replaced at the Stock Exchange by Mr Jeffrey Knight, aged 45, who has been acting chief executive in Mr Fell's absence and who played a prominent role as head of the Exchange's quotations department during stockbroking liquidations in the early 1970s.

Mr Knight has been deputy chief executive since 1976. He was educated at Bristol Cathedral School and St Peter's College Oxford.

He was articled to a City firm of chartered accountants, qualified in 1966, and joined the quotations department of the Stock Exchange in March 1967. He became the head of the department in May 1973. He represented the United Kingdom at meetings with the EEC Commission and is a special adviser to the Department of Trade on the EEC. He has been a delegate to the working party no 2 of the financial markets committee of the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and a member of the City Company law committee.

Mr Fell will relinquish his post officially on March 24. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the Stock Exchange, said in a statement that the Exchange had agreed to with regret to release him. Mr Fell, he said, had been a distinguished and successful chief executive. Mr Fell has worked with Sir Nicholas as chairman for almost all his career at the Exchange.

The new grants mean that all operating and deficit subsidies should be phased out by the start of the 1983-84 financial year. But the slump in coal demand caused by the recession, coupled with the Prime Minister's decision to climb down over pit closures last February in the face of a threatened strike, has blown the strategy way off course.

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The slowdown on earnings, combined with rapid improvements in productivity, has helped to recoup some of Britain's lost international competitiveness. Wages and salaries per unit of output rose an estimated 3.8 per cent in the year to November, slightly higher than an upwardly revised 3.6 per cent in October, but well down from the peak increase of 25.1 per cent.

The earnings figures are boosted by a rise in the number of hours worked

Average earnings rose by 9.9 per cent in the year to December, down from 11.3 per cent in November, the Department of Employment said yesterday.

But the 12-month figure for December was depressed by large amounts of back pay to local authority white-collar workers a year previously.

The department said that the underlying rate of increase in earnings remained at around 11 per cent, as it has done since August.

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£480m in subsidies to prop up pits

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The Government expects to have to give the National Coal Board about £380m — or about £3.15 for every ton of coal it produces — in the form of direct grants and subsidies in the coming financial year.

Another £100m will be made available as "social grants", covering the cost of pit closures and redundancy schemes. Mr John Moore, the junior energy minister in charge of coal, said yesterday.

The figures are lower than those in the current financial year, when the Government expected to provide £460m in deficit and operating grants and £100m in social grants. But they are considerably larger than the Government hoped when it took office in 1979.

The original target was that all operating and deficit subsidies should be phased out by the start of the 1983-84 financial year. But the slump in coal demand caused by the recession, coupled with the Prime Minister's decision to climb down over pit closures last February in the face of a threatened strike, has blown the strategy way off course.

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PEOPLE

Phillip Banks: double act

Peter Wainwright

Mr Norman Snow and **Mr Michael Hill** have been appointed to the board of **Critical Windows**.

Mr N. D. Peers has joined the board of **Cayzer**. **Cayzer** is a banking services subsidiary of **Cayzer, Gartmore**, whose ultimate parent company is the **British and Commonwealth Shipping Company**.

Mr G. W. Mackworth-Young has been appointed a director of **Charter Consolidated**.

Curious and unsatisfactory
this statement may have

The Neue Heimat affair is highly damaging to the West

Another argument is that the national insurance contributions which most people pay are going up to meet the rising cost of unemployment. Although national insurance is decided separately from income tax, most people do

...ing them. This would be
popular with the brewers and
the tobacco industry, who
are running a very aggressive
lobbying operation and it
could hold down inflation. In
other ways it is greatly
superior to cutting VAT, but

into a renewed downturn in the year. I think that the pressure will now on the Chancellor to deflate, possibly by using his powers to cut VAT between budgets, to give an autumn boost to the economy.

Earnings per £1 ord
Interim dividend pe

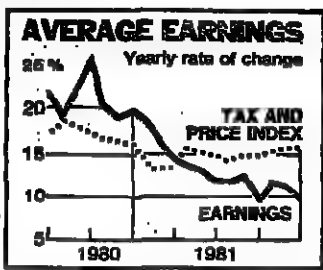
Copies of the full interin
19 Hanover Square, Lond

Ordinary share	16.0p	10.9
Preference share	11.0p	11.0

Report can be obtained from the Secretary to the WIR 9DA.

p 29.7p
p 22.0p

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p 29.7p
p 22.0p

etary, Dalgety plc,

Ordinary share	16.0p	10.9
Preference share	11.0p	11.0

Report can be obtained from the Secretary to the WIR 9DA.

- Record half year profit £19.6m — up 20%
- Earnings per share 16.0p — up 47%
- Increased profits from the UK, Australia, New Zealand and USA
- "Confident that further progress will be made"

	Half-Year to 31 Dec 1981 <u>Unaudited</u>	Half-Year to 31 Dec 1980 <u>Unaudited</u>	Year to 30 June 1980
	£m	£m	£m
Profit before interest and tax	37.2	31.0	16.5
Group profit before tax	19.6	16.2	41.2
Group profit after tax	12.7	9.2	24.2
Earnings per £1 ordinary share	16.0p	10.9p	29.7p
Interim dividend per share	11.0p	11.0p	22.0p

Copies of the full Interim Report can be obtained from the Secretary, Dalgely plc
19 Hanover Square, London W1R 9DA.

Another major money interest in the management of the United States for the past few years has been the question of how to make the most of the country's abundant supply of natural resources. The answer, it is believed, lies in the development of a new type of energy source, one that is clean, abundant and cheap. This is the goal of the American Nuclear Energy Administration (A.N.E.A.), which was created in 1954 by the Atomic Energy Act. The A.N.E.A. is a federal agency that is responsible for the development and regulation of nuclear energy in the United States. It is the only federal agency that is responsible for the development and regulation of nuclear energy in the United States. The A.N.E.A. is a federal agency that is responsible for the development and regulation of nuclear energy in the United States. It is the only federal agency that is responsible for the development and regulation of nuclear energy in the United States.

A SMALL INDUCEMENT TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO MAKE A BIG DISCOVERY.

Until now, low-tar cigarettes have not only lacked taste they've also lacked a certain *je ne sais quoi*.

And that's despite all the promises to the contrary.

FREE PACK!

FOR EVERY 10 IN-PACK COUPONS.

So convincing you that du Maurier low tar is the cigarette you've been waiting for is not going to be easy.

Which only leaves us one option: To make you a special introductory double offer you'll find difficult to refuse.

3p off your next pack. Or, in exchange for 10 in-pack coupons, a completely free pack.

Is that a tempting enough offer to give du Maurier low tar a try?

We hope it is. Because for the very first time you'll discover a low tar cigarette that really does have more than mere taste.

Now isn't that a discovery worth making?

Discover du Maurier.



Discover Low Tar.

LOW TAR. Manufacturer's estimate

DANGER: H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:
THINK ABOUT THE HEALTH RISKS BEFORE SMOKING.

Cricket

Ranatunge makes mark on Sri Lanka's great day

From Richard Streeton
Colombo, Feb 17

Sri Lanka made a good recovery from a poor start in their inaugural Test match here today. England had been reeling at 34 for four but by the close Sri Lanka were 183 for eight. Sri Lanka might not win this game but a historic occasion is not going to be an embarrassment.

An innings of 54 by the young left hander Ranatunge, whose composure and strokeplay came close to sending onlookers into raptures, together with a dour and efficient 64 not out from Madugalle, was responsible for ensuring that England did not have things their own way. Willis and Botham, from the same club, both took wickets in successive overs in the morning period. Underwood later obtained turn and lift as he claimed four wickets on a pitch whose testing properties must be in doubt.

As feared in this age of radio and television, quite apart from economic factors, there were only some 10,000 people present in the ground to watch the opening day, although the listening and viewing figures would be significant for some presentations, national anthems and release of multi-coloured balloons, a fascinating day's play ensued. Madugalle, who showed his prowess last week at Kandy with a disciplined hundred and is clearly going to be an important figure for his country in the years ahead. Only 15 other players, 11 of them from India or Pakistan, have played in a Test match at a younger age than Ranatunge in 18 years of days and he made an indelible mark on the day's events.

The honour of scoring Sri Lanka's first run in Test cricket went to Waranapura, their captain, who steered Willis's fifth ball through the slips for a single. Waranapura surprised everyone by choosing to bat. Fletcher's intention, if he won the toss, was to put Sri Lanka in. The pitch was still damp from its preparation and, even after it dried out, there was always some bounce to be gained, not least by Willis and later by Underwood. England, the all-rounder Ranatunge was the unlucky Sri Lankan.

Sri Lanka's poor start mostly owed as much to their own mistakes as it did to either the England bowlers or the vagaries of the pitch. Waranapura received an awkward ball from Willis that lifted and it lobbed off his glove to fifth slip. Dias hooked a shade early on the slow turn and Cook at forward short leg held a neat catch with an outstretched right hand.

On Sunday, Wettimuny looked a well organized defensive player for 90 minutes before he

changed character and paid the penalty, misreading a lifting ball from Botham. Mendis played the first authentic stroke of the innings for a fierce straight drive for four against Allott, but when he shuffled across his stumps against Botham, left Sri Lanka 54 for four from 19 overs.

The England players have already decided that Ranatunge is suspect outside his off stump and he was immediately confronted by an extraordinary series of three slips and three gullies against Allott and by three slips, a gully and a point against Botham. He looked utterly at ease, though, from the start of the day's last ball. Madugalle took runs here and there and by the end had struggled for almost four hours with a six and three fours.

In the first hour of the afternoon Ranatunge invoked comparisons with a young Len Harvey in the 1948 series between England and Australia. He drove freely on both sides of the wicket, pulled anything short and ran like a hare between the wickets. His confidence was extraordinary for someone playing only his second first-class match.

Twice Ranatunge hit Allott for 10 in an over. When Willis rapped left hand, he played the next ball off his back and then hooked a four and drove three past extra cover. Madugalle was content to be more subdued, but when Embury bowled, he lifted

him over square leg for six with effortless timing.

By tea Sri Lanka were 130 for four with Ranatunge's unbeaten 54, including seven fours, but he shouldered arms to Underwood in the first over afterwards and had his first stump hit. He is quite clearly destined to be one of the game's finest ornaments.

By now Underwood had settled into a nagging spell and with some help from the pitch went on to take four for 18 in 14.1 overs. Somachandera de Silva was held off mid wicket, flicking the ball off his legs; de Mel was caught at silly point; and Kaluperuma fell to a short leg catch from Cook from the day's last ball. Madugalle took runs here and there and by the end had struggled for almost four hours with a six and three fours.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings
S. Waughman, c. Gower, c. Willis 2
S. Waughman, c. Gower, c. Willis 2
S. Waughman, c. Gower, c. Willis 2
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S. Waughman, c. Gower, c. Willis 2
S. Waughman, c. Gower, c. Willis 2

ENGLAND: 2nd innings
S. Waughman, c. Gower, c. Willis 2
S. Waughman, c. Gower, c. Willis 2
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S. Waughman, c. Gower, c. Willis 2

Australians draw level

Dunedin, Feb 17—Australia beat New Zealand by six wickets in the second one-day international here today, to square the three-match series at 1-1. The deciding match will be at Wellington on Saturday.

A record crowd of 15,000-3,000 more than the previous test—saw Australia's first one-day international which handily defeated New Zealand by six wickets. The match was a tactical battle, with the Australians using a variety of batsmen to exploit the pitch and the New Zealand bowlers struggling to contain the run.

New Zealand collapsed to 39 for four before Cook and Blair, his first international appearance, came to the rescue with a fifth-wicket partnership of 85. Cook made top score of 54 in 105 minutes with a six and three fours, while Blair added 28 to the end of their stand marked the start of a further collapse in which five wickets fell for 15 runs.

Australia's victory was helped by a well organized defensive player for 90 minutes before he

took two wickets, including Chappell for nought.

NEW ZEALAND
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AUSTRALIA
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SCORING: New Zealand
S. Waughman, c. Gower, c. Willis 2
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SCORING: Australia
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Table tennis



Preen: a young man finding the long way round to England's team

Success with a sting

By A Special Correspondent

Carl Preen, 14 years and seven months old, has become the youngest person to represent England when he plays against Portugal in Lisbon on February 27. The Nigel Ecclestone, the leading figure in England's Commonwealth championship success, says Philip Bradbury, a 17-year-old from Aylesbury, has the makings of a star.

Despite his lack of years, his lack of height, and the inexperience of travelling from the Isle of Wight, Preen's remarkable achievement is hardly a surprise. He is already English junior and English cadet champion and last summer helped England to European championships in Czechoslovakia—our first European gold medal at any level of competition.

Preen is also ranked 21 in the senior list but that does not flatter him. Only last weekend he lost Ecclestone on route to the final of the Essex Open, on the way back he missed the boat from Portsmouth to Ryde and

had to wait for the last one, getting home at 4 a.m.

Preen's late return highlights his achievement. We have to charge all over the country and he does well to get to the table ourselves kicking our heels at Portsmouth Harbour in the early hours of the morning," his father, John, says. "That means he has to take days off school. I wish they would organise tournaments in a more reasonable way."

Preen's success story, though, has a sting in the tail. He is one of those following the combination of a versatile vogue for combination bats, using long pimples on one side and an attacking rubber on the other, also started badly on rubbers can be dangerous.

Fortunately Preen's skills are such that he might still be successful, were there to be legislation against combination bats next year. One must also hope that his unusual ability to charge all over the country, which is also sufficient to enable him to develop attacking shots, precluded by the use of long pimples.

Golf

Faldo on right course

From John Ballantine
Los Angeles, Feb 17

Nick Faldo, not very early, and Peter Oosterhuis, not very late, are among the contestants testing off in the Los Angeles Open here tomorrow. The tournament will be played on the historic par-71, 7,022-yard Riviera course, which has been the scene of the Pacific Ocean in Pacific Palisades.

Faldo, fresh from his modest triumph in finishing seventh in Hawaii with that marvelous 31 home, plays with Tim Simpson and Jim Bloor. Oosterhuis, as befits his 28th ranking in the money list last year, has "star" billing with Tom Watson, who won here in 1980, and John Cook, the 1978 United States amateur champion and the surprise winner of the Bing Crosby title last season.

Johnny Miller defends and Lee Trevino returns to the circuit after resting his back. Jack Nicklaus, who always likes to play at Riviera, which he calls "one of the truly great courses in America," is absent. "Through business commitments," Faldo likes a big challenging course (the won all his three

European PGA titles on testing tracks) and he did well here last year, finishing ninth with scores of 69, 70, 67 and 70. It was also here that he earned his United States "players card".

Next year Riviera will host this country's PGA championship and, as a consequence, the Los Angeles Open will move for one year to its former venue, the Rancho Park public course. A rumour has it that the tournament might move permanently to Rancho Park, but this is discounted by most players.

Tom Sieckman, of the United States, defends his title in the Philippines open championship, the first event of the 51st Manila circuit, which starts in Manila today.

PGA TOUR: Leading scores
1. H. Faldo, 69, 70, 67, 70, 283; 2. P. Oosterhuis, 71, 72, 70, 69, 282; 3. J. Bloor, 72, 71, 70, 68, 281; 4. T. Simpson, 73, 70, 69, 68, 280; 5. J. Miller, 74, 71, 70, 67, 279; 6. J. Nicklaus, 75, 72, 71, 68, 276; 7. L. Trevino, 76, 73, 70, 67, 276; 8. J. Cook, 77, 74, 71, 68, 276; 9. J. Faldo, 78, 75, 72, 69, 274; 10. J. Miller, 79, 76, 73, 70, 278.

Boxing

Gumbs finds his feet — tonight his fists?

By Srikanth Sen
Boxing Correspondent

Roy Gumbs, who was lost to the public when he was winning the middleweight title, he went off to Canada to find himself, returns to Liverpool Stadium tonight to claim his Belt and the right to challenge Tony Sibson for the European or Commonwealth title.

Gumbs knows that he will win his belt outright tonight by beating Garry McEwan, of the Midlands. "He is quick and elusive but I will catch up with him," Gumbs said yesterday. "I have been training with the best amateur right-middleweight in the world, Sean O'Sullivan."

But Gumbs will have to wait to take on Sibson. "It all depends on the fight with Davidson on Sunday," Gumbs said. "If he beats Davidson he will almost certainly give up the European title and concentrate on Hagler and in Birmingham in the autumn was announced by Mickey Duff, the British promoter."

Sibson beat Gumbs on points in their early days when the Leicester boxer was naive enough to ask Gumbs for most of what he carried in his right hand. Things have changed radically since then. The "swedenborer" has gone on to become a fashionable name while Gumbs has developed into arguably the finest boxer in Britain.

Gumbs is the first to admit he was a late developer. "Before I met Eddie Smith I gave myself a year. Even though I lived outside me out in the last round I put it down to experience and went on from there. I get better after each fight. Because I lived in a good gym for a boxer. The present is everything. Gumbs is tall, well-built and has a powerful, slow, slow punch. His style is refreshingly different from all other British boxers, rather in the American mould, which allows him to carry out his strategy of a slow, steady, and throw bombs from all angles compared with the usual British Victor Sylvester one-two-three.

McEwan's record showed that he is vulnerable to punches from tall men, as happened when he was knocked out in two rounds by Cressell, who was knocked out in 11 last year by Sibson. To beat Gumbs, he will have to outsmart him. I think Gumbs will know too much for him.

Alan Minter will decide over the next week whether or not to carry on boxing.

Motor racing



The squire and new conveyance: Colin Chapman at Ketteringham Hall with the JPS 91

Lotus taking weight off shoulders of convention

By John Blunsden

A grand prix car which could well put the Lotus team back on to the winner's rostrum after an absence of more than three years was unveiled yesterday by Colin Chapman at his team's headquarters at Ketteringham Hall, Norfolk.

Unlike last year's controversial twin-chassis type 88 — arguably the most innovative racing car for a decade but one which was barred from the circuits following a dispute about its eligibility — the new John Player Special 91 is a conventional development of the type 88, but with a car which uses advanced technology in great detail.

Its carbon fibre body structure, incorporating kevlar sheets and a fireproof Nomex honeycomb sandwich filler, was first used in the type 88 and is formed of a single sheet of the composite material which is folded around a body jig and secured by aerospace specifications.

The weight saving to this structure alone is some 33lb compared with a conventional metal monocoque, a vital advantage for a season when teams with normally aspirated engines will be looking to save every ounce in order to compete with the power advantage of the turbo.

Other advances over the type 87 car used last year include a wider floor plan in order to maximize the use of underbody ground effects for optimum road-holding, a smoother body profile for better straight line speed, and significant changes in the suspension to improve the car's adaptability and ease of adjustment.

The first of the new cars will be tested today at Silverstone by Elia de Angelis with further tests to follow at Brands Hatch. Nigel Mansell's car is due to be completed after the weekend and will continue the test programme at Silverstone on Tuesday and Wednesday. The plan is to take both cars to Brazil for the start of the Grand Prix at Rio de Janeiro next month for a continuation of the test programme when the details of the new car will be finalized.

At that point construction of two more type 91s will be timed to coincide with the start of the racing season, at Imola in April, while a further two back-up cars will be completed later in the year.

It is expected that the JPS 91 will be among an exclusive short list of cars to later have the honour of being driven by the powerful and highly successful version of the highly successful Corvair Ford DFV engine.

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Tennis

Players will practice on shale for Davis Cup

By Rex Bellamy

In tennis, as in most activities, careful preparation is one of the prerequisites for a maximum level of performance. Britain's round Davis Cup against Italy in Rome from March 5 to 7, will see players on a shale court, possibly affecting the result.

Paul Hutchins, the national team manager, has arranged for shale at Wimbledon this week at Monte Carlo next week, and in Rome during the four days preceding the tie.

Montreal's Paul Hutchins, who has been in charge of the team since the same name was changed to Hutchins, has arranged for shale at Wimbledon this week at Monte Carlo next week, and in Rome during the four days preceding the tie.

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Tax may force clubs to stern denial

By Norman Fox
Sports Correspondent

Government plans to impose a 15 per cent tax on the profits of fruit machines at sports and social clubs could result in their being denied the £45m they now receive in VAT and registration fees. The Alliance of British Clubs will suggest members pressure the machines and find a way to avoid the tax.

James Dowd, the secretary of the Alliance, said yesterday the Central Council of Physical Recreation and the Sports Council were supporting their determination to confound the government's intention of bringing in the tax during next month's budget.

Mr Dowd said: "We will hold another meeting with the CPCR, Sports Council, Royal British Legion, and other representatives immediately after the budget and propose scrapping the 15 per cent tax on profits of fruit machines and find alternative ways of raising funds."

"We are thinking if private lotteries. There is nothing in the Lottery Act which would then start from the position of not paying VAT and licences."

The Alliance believes that over a period the loss of revenue threatened by the withdrawal of machines will be overcome. Mr Dowd said fruit machines were currently a convenient form of fund-raising and there were other methods.

It is estimated that sports clubs would lose up to £45m a year if the 15 per cent tax is imposed. The CPCR describes the government's proposal as a "body blow to voluntary sports officials".

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Taunton programme

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